



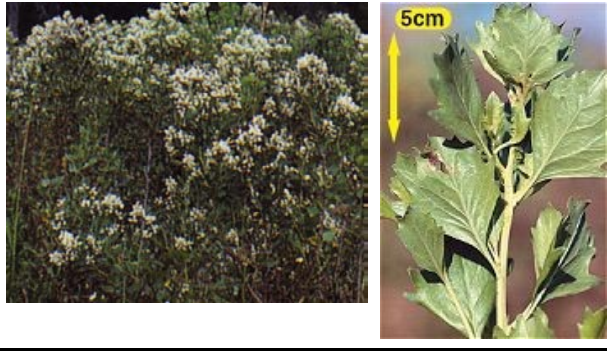









WEED IDENTIFICATION

RESTRICTED INVASIVE PLANTS – GATTON CAMPUS

SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	IMPACTS & SPREAD
<p><u>African boxthorn</u> <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perennial shrub up to 5m tall with deep, extensive, branched root system. • The main branches are rigid, woody and thorn with spines up to 15cm long. The numerous branchlets end in a spine. • Leaves are bright green, 3cm long, 2cm wide, rounded at top, tapered to base. • Flowers are white to pale mauve, 12mm diameter. • Berries are smooth and green when young, ripening to bright orange to red with numerous light brown, oval, flattened seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms a dense thicket armed with spines that can be an impenetrable barrier to domestic stock • Provides habitat for pest animals such as rabbits. • Attracts insects, including fruit fly, dried fruit beetles and tomato fly, which breed in the fruit. • Spread by birds and animals eating berries and excreting viable seed
<p><u>Celery-leaved Buttercup / Poison Buttercup</u> <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally grows in moist or muddy sites as a succulent annual herb up to 60cm high • Leaves deeply lobed into 3 segments, 10-30mm long, 15-50mm wide with upper leaves crowfoot shaped 30-120mm long • Branched flowering stems with pale glossy yellow 5 petal flowers 5-10mm. • Fruit clusters of one seeded fruit of cylindrical heads up to 20mm long, 10mm wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastrointestinal irritation to livestock and reduces milk production in cows • Spread by seed and root fragments via livestock, birds, machinery and vehicles and by surface water or mud
<p><u>Fireweed</u> <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant varies greatly in size and shape depending on conditions. In dry harsh conditions, may be less than 20cm tall with narrow leaves, no branching and few flowers. In ideal conditions, 50cm tall with multiple branches, long, wide leaves and about 100 flowers. • Leaves typically 2-6cm long, alternate, dark green, with serrated margins. • Flowers are bright yellow, 2 cm daisy-like, with up to 100 seeds each. • Cylindrical 2-3mm seeds with rows of very fine short hairs and silky parachute. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxic to livestock, particularly cattle and horses, causing illness, slow growth and poor conditioning, which can result in death. • May taint meat and milk. • Spread by wind, stock, in pasture seed, hay, turf, mulch and with stock transport
<p><u>Giant rat's tail grass</u> <i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i>, <i>S. natalensis</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upright grass 0.6-1.7m tall with long, narrow leaf blades 20-50cm long, 2-4mm wide. • Seed head is up to 45cm long, 3cm wide and heads change shape from 'rat's tail' to elongated pyramid shape when mature. • Difficult to distinguish from other pasture grasses before maturity, but does not develop sooty spike on its seed heads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loosens teeth of cattle and horses that graze on it. • Spread by livestock, native animals and machinery
<p><u>Groundsel bush</u> <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Densely branched shrub up to 3m tall. • Young stems are green maturing to woody brown • Bark of mature plants is deeply fissured • Leaves are dull green, alternate, wedge-shaped, 2.5-5cm long, 1-2.5cm wide with a few upper lobes • Male flowers are pale yellow appearing in March followed by white inconspicuous white female flowers • Seeds are brown, 3mm long, with tufts of white hair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds spread by wind, running water, vehicles and machinery
<p><u>Harrisia cactus/Moonlight cactus</u> <i>Harrisia spp.</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiny perennial plant with fleshy-jointed stems that form tangled mats about 0.5m tall. • Stems are ribbed lengthwise with low, thick, triangular humps at regular intervals. • Flowers are large, funnel-shaped, pink with tinge of white • Fruit is round, 4-5cm across, bright red, with scattered bumps, hairs and spines and small black seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms dense infestations that choke out other pasture species when left unchecked. • Spines interfere with stock mustering and movement, and cause injuries and lameness. • Fruit spread by birds and animals

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<p><u>Lantana</u> <i>Lantana camara</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavily branched shrub growing in clumps, thickets or vines. • Stems are square with small, recurved prickles. • Bright green leaves, 6cm long, with roundtoothed edges, grow opposite one another along stem. • Flowers vary in colour from pale cream to yellow, white, pink, orange, red, lilac and purple, about 2.5cm in diameter. • Fruits are glossy, rounded, fleshy, purplish-black when ripe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially one of Australia's worst invasive weeds forming dense thickets to smother native vegetation. • Some varieties are poisonous to stock. • Thickets are impenetrable for animals, people and vehicles. • Spread mostly by people and fruit-eating birds
<p><u>Mother of Millions</u> <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect, smooth, fleshy, succulent plant up to 1m or more tall. • Grey brown fleshy cylindrical leaves with seven pointed projections at the tip. Each leaf produces small plantlets along its edge. • Flowers are orange-red, bell-shaped, in dense clusters at top of tall flower spikes appearing May to October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poisonous, with newly exposed stock especially vulnerable and can be fatal to stock. • Spread by floodwater, animals, slashers, machinery and vehicles
<p><u>Prickly Acacia</u> <i>Vachellia nilotica</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorny shrub or small tree up to 5-10m tall with paired stout thorns around 1-5cm long. • Fern like leaves with 4-10 paired leaf branches and 10-20 leaflets on each branch • Golden-yellow, ball-shaped, flowers growing on stems from leaf joints with 2-6 flowers per group. • Orange green bark on saplings with dark rough bark on mature trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms dense thorny thickets that interfere with mustering, stock movement and access to water. • Thorns damages tyres • Spreads by livestock ingesting mature pods, by vehicles and through mud and water movement
<p><u>Prickly Pear</u> <i>Opuntia stricta</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, leafless, succulent shrub, usually 50–100cm tall with thick tough drought-resistant skin • Segmented stems are spiny, flattened and leafless. • Pear-shaped bristly fruit can be red, purple, orange, yellow or green. • Large 6cm wide spring flowers can be yellow, orange, red, pink, purple or white. • Seeds are 5mm long, have hard seed coats that allow them to survive heat and lack of water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can harm animals and prevent them from eating. • Vigorous in hot, dry conditions, overtaking other plants. Competes and invades pastures. • Spreads by birds, animals and floodwaters
<p><u>Tiger Pear</u> <i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleshy succulent forming thickets is usually less than 40cm tall but can reach up to 2m in height when growing against other plants • Dark green to purplish segmented coloured stems 3.5-30cm long and 1-5cm thick, covered in groups of grey or brownish 1-5cm barbed spines • Lemon or bright yellow flowers 25-60mm have numerous 'petals' and fleshy and spiny fruit 20-30mm long turning red with purplish mottling as they mature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can harm animals and prevent them from eating • Spread by stem fragments attached to animals, footwear and vehicles. Also spread by floodwaters and dumped garden waste.
<p><u>Velvet Pear Tree</u> <i>Opuntia tomentosa</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically 2-6 m tall, but occasionally up to 8 m in height with multi branched stems of flattened segments covered in fine hairs with small raised spineless structures • Orange flowers with reddish markings on the outermost 'petals' with fleshy fruit 50mm long and 35mm wide, turning dull red with maturity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stem fragments are spread by attaching to animals, footwear and vehicles. Also spread by fruits eaten by birds and small animals and through dumped garden waste.