Why don't we accept noxious weed materials at transfer stations?

What are noxious weeds?

'Noxious weeds' are those plant species listed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act).

It is illegal to transport noxious weeds without a permit from Agriculture Victoria. It is also illegal for our transfer stations to accept declared noxious weeds without a permit. Noxious weeds should not be placed in the general rubbish or food and garden organics kerbside bins. These regulations aim to reduce the spread of serious weeds.

There are many other weeds that pose a threat to the environment and agriculture, but these do not have the same legislative controls as noxious weeds.

Why control weeds?

Weeds reduce agricultural productivity, compete with native species, increase bushfire hazard, provide harbour for vermin and reduce water quality. They spread readily via seeds, bulbs or other plant parts from properties to farmland, bushland or neighbours' properties.

Who is responsible?

Under the CaLP Act as a private landowner, you have a legal responsibility to control weeds on your property. You must take reasonable steps to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds and to prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds on any land owned by you.



Allow to break down in place



Dry weeds for burning or composting



Mulching ('grooming')

Control and disposal

Control of weeds may include physical, mechanical, or chemical control and follow-up measures such as mulching or competitive plantings and ongoing patrolling of new outbreaks. Different weed species, seasons and contexts will require different approaches. Many references are available online to help you locate the appropriate approach.

Disposing of weed material on-site should always be the first option considered. This will avoid seeds, bulbs and other viable plant material be spread during transport, or establishing at a disposal site.

The following methods may be considered:

- allowing killed weeds to break-down on-site
- burning (seek CFA approval)
- composting (long-term or hot composting)
- 'solarisation' (covering ground with plastic layers over hotter months)



Burning piled weeds



Compost pile

References

Agriculture Victoria – weeds information
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Victorian Blackberry Taskforce
www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au

Victorian Gorse Taskforce
www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au

Weeds Australia
www.weeds.org.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Hepburn Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work. On these lands, Djaara have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

For transfer station information, including opening hours, visit
www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/transfer-stations

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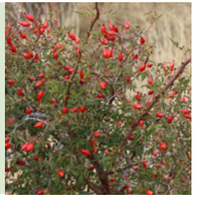
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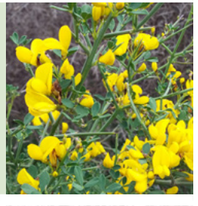
NOXIOUS WEEDS

Managing weed disposal on your property



Locally common noxious weeds

Common name	Identification
African boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum*	
Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus spp. agg*	
Briar Rose *Rosa rubiginosa*	
English Broom *Cytisus scoparius*	
Gorse *Ulex europaeus*	

Common name	Identification
Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*	
Hemlock *Conium maculatum*	
Prickly Pear Cactus *Austrocylindropuntia, Cylindropuntia, Opuntia*	
Spiny Broom *Calicotome spinosa*	
Willows *Salix spp.*	

Images: Hepburn Shire Council

Biomass reduction

	Weed biomass management	African Boxthorn	Black-berry	Briar Rose	Brooms	Gorse	Hawthorn	Hemlock	Prickly Pear Cactus	Spiny Broom	Willows
	**Allow to break down in place** • Following chemical treatment • Low cost • In short term, killed material can be unsightly, present a fire hazard and may impede access for maintenance	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓ d
	**Burning on-site** • Might be used as a pre-treatment to chemical control of regrowth or to remove previously killed weeds • Seek CFA guidance • Can stimulate seed bank so plan follow up	✓ a	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓ a	⊗	⊗	✓✓	⊗
	**Burning piled weeds** • Must be on same property • Minimise movement to avoid spread of seed • Seek CFA guidance	✓ b	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	⊗	⊗	✓ b	✓✓
	**Compost pile** • Only use seed-free and non-viable plant fragments	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓	⊗	⊗	✓ b	⊗	⊗	✓
	**Solarising** • Cover with plastic for several months to use sun to 'cook', small or young weeds • Only effective in warmer parts of the year	⊗	⊗	⊗	✓ e	✓ e	⊗	✓✓	⊗	⊗	⊗
	**Mulching ('grooming')** • Specialised machinery fragments weeds into mulch • A pre-treatment reducing bulk and stimulating regrowth prior to chemical treatment • Fragments can resprout (esp. willow and prickly pear)	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	⊗	⊗	✓✓	✓ c
	**Cut/bag seeds for separate disposal** • Only suitable for very small infestations • Destroy seed in a wood fireplace or by deep burial	⊗	⊗	✓✓	✓	⊗	⊗	✓ b	✓ b	⊗	⊗
	**Cut and dry – (allowing composting-burning)** • Only suitable for very small infestations • Place material out of contact with soil in a thin layer • In hot dry weather most material dries within days but may take months in cool weather • Tap-roots, plant crowns and prickly pear may remain viable for months	✓ b	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓ b	⊗	✓ b	✓
	**Goat Grazing** • Animal welfare is paramount and requires experienced handlers and secure containment • Useful for reducing bulk prior to regrowth phase and subsequent chemical control	⊗	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	⊗	⊗	✓	✓

✓✓ Generally useful or feasible

✓ Sometimes feasible or useful

⊗ Not useful or not feasible or may be hazardous

a Live plants may be hard to burn

b Handling hazard

c Fragments may remain viable and require monitoring

d Killed trees will rot and may become hazardous

e young plants only