WESSA Eden

LAYMAN'S GUIDE TO OUR LOCAL INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS

Alien Invasive Plants are all over the place – and frequently also in your garden! But you are most probably not even aware of them and cannot identify them.

Many are subject to legislation that requires removal and RESPONSIBLE disposal by you the property owner.

PLEASE DO NOT DUMP GARDEN WASTE IN THE OPEN BUSH AREAS.

Garden waste does not compost but rather encourages the spread of Alien Plants into our indigenous areas.
Please Be Responsible!

If you need assistance identifying Alien Vegetation in your Garden, and/or advice on how to dispose of garden waste, we can send a Consultant to explain which plants need to be removed, and advise you (and your gardener) on how to do it. Only R200.

Care for your environment – your life depends on it!

Alien Invasive Plants and the damage they do to our environment.

After climate change, alien invasive plants pose the most serious threat to our habitats by destroying bio-diversity. Bio-diversity is the link between all organisms on earth, binding each into an inter-dependent ecosystem. Intact eco-systems ensure the sustainable productivity of soils and provide the genetic resources for all plants and animals on the planet and have a direct impact on all our lives. The loss in biodiversity means millions of people face a future where food supplies are more vulnerable to pests and disease, poor growing conditions and probable water shortages. Here are just some of the reasons why:

What it does to our water resources

It is estimated that nationwide invading plants use 3.3 billion cubic meters of water per year beyond what native plants would require. Total annual runoff from mountain catchment areas and high yield riparian zones could eventually be reduced by at least 16% if alien plants are allowed to continue to spread.

What it does to our animals

Habitat destruction leads to the extinction of all animals depending on a specific eco-system. In the Western Cape, the declining diversity of birds and insects, for example, is noticeable.

What it does to our soil

Approximately 20 million hectares (17%) at different densities of our agricultural land has been invaded resulting in loss of arable land. If one could condense it to a 100% density stand it will cover 1.9 million ha, bigger than the Kruger National Park, excluding the private conservation areas.

Fire damage

Normal grassland fires generate heat of between 200 to 5000 kW/m2. Invasives can generate heat of up to 50 000 kW/m2 which results in physical damage to the soil. This in turn reduces the viability of indigenous seeds in the soil and causes physical damage to plants/roots. The damage done to the soil by these fires contributes to flooding, soil erosion, siltation of dams and rivers.

14 Worst IAP's in George and Surrounding Areas at the Moment:

- Black wattle
- Blackwood
- Blackberry (European)
- Bugweed
- Cannas
- European Elder
- Lantana
- Loquat tree
- Moth catcher
- Madeira Vine
- Pampas Grass
- Sword Fern
- Wild ginger
- Australian Tree Fern (not yet listed but is well on the way)

BRIEF GUIDE TO THESE 14 NASTIES

The following pages give a brief insight to each of the above mentioned plants.

This is NOT a definitive guide but an attempt at collating information from various sources to help the layman in identifying IAPs and dealing with them in the best manner.

The website links are the definitive pages for information and visuals.

Information on invasive alien plants: www.invasives.org.za | www.sanbi.org

Just a few tips on eradication of Invasive Alien Plants:

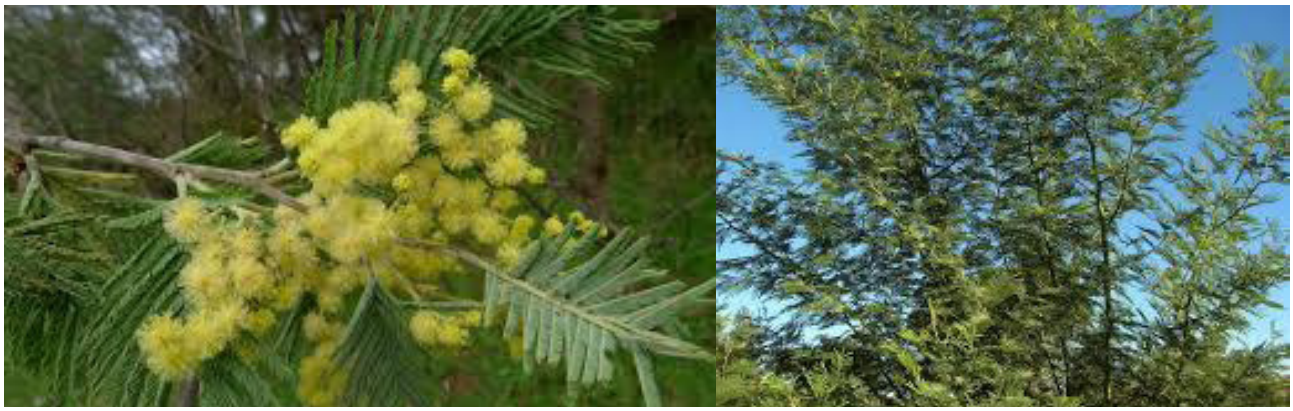
Ena and Bob McIntyre compiled 20 PDFs on identifying and removing some of our local invaders

http://www.botanicalsociety.org.za/BranchesAndGardens/SitePages/Garden%20Route.aspx

1 Black Wattle / Swartwattel

Acacia mearnsii (Fabaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/205-black-wattle-acacia-mearnsii



How to eradicate:- Biological control, cut and poison with Kaput, ringbark.

Black wattle is removed in a number of ways, however each has their economic and environmental challenges. The largest challenge common to all methods of removal is the stimulation of the seedbed. Any flowering black wattle tree has the ability to produce millions of seeds over its life span and although biological control methods are proving successful, the

seeds have the ability to remain dormant in the ground for up to 40 years. The follow up on the germination of these seeds is more important than the original eradication.

And this last sentence is the important one: **Follow up, follow up...every time you are out and about!**

When you are out walking pull up the small saplings before they need a bigger effort to remove.

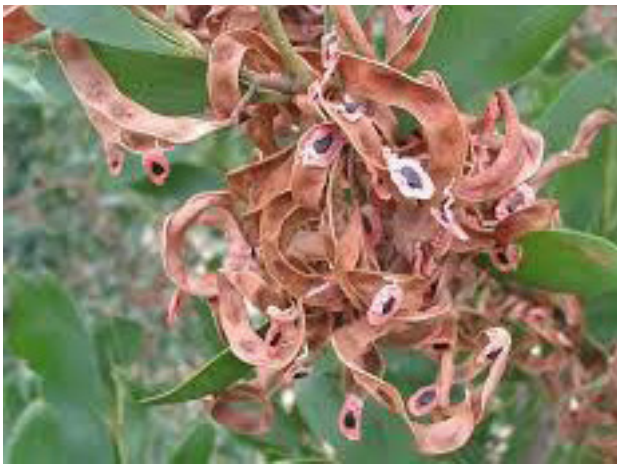
Have a plan for your infested plot – i.e harvest seed cuttings from nearby and get them ready. Pack berms with the cut wood – or anything/cover to inhibit seed growth. Make use of pioneer species. For forest – boekenhout and keurboom. Fynbos and thicket – bietou.

More information on biological control available from the Garden Route Botanical Garden http://www.botanicalgarden.org.za or SCLI http://www.scli.org.za as this method cuts down on seed production quite substantially.

2 Blackwood, Australian Paluma blackwood, Sally wattle, Tasmanian blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/909-australian-blackwood-acacia-melanoxylon



How to eradicate:- Do not interfere unless you can do the job! Cutting alone just causes coppicing from stem and roots. Ring-barking must be deep enough and bark should be stripped to the ground.

3 Blackberry (European), Brambles, braam, bosbraam

Rubus sp

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/339-european-blackberry-rubus-fruticosus

How to eradicate:- Dig up the roots and leave to dry and rot. Kaput on cut ends is more effective.

4 Bugweed / bugtree, flannel weed, woolly nightshade; luisboom, groot bitterappel

Solanum mauritianum (Solanaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/351-bugweed-solanum-mauritianum

Poison for Bugweed - Kaput

While Timbrel and its generic equivalents have traditionally been used for cut stump treatment on this

species, I wish to remind users that the herbicide must be used in conjunction with Actipron or similar wetting agent and applied as a coarse spray to all freshly low cut surfaces.

However, I wish to draw your attention to a relatively new “ready-to use” herbicide gel specifically registered for the above, which requires no mixing or dilution and contains everything required to do the job including a marker dye. Because the product is painted rather than sprayed onto cut stump surfaces, there is considerably less risk of environmental contamination and off-site damage.

If anybody required more information on this product, they may phone 0826557585 or email noweeds@absamail.co.za

5 Cannas, Indian shot, Garden canna; wild canna; tuinkanna; Indiese kanna

Canna indica (Cannaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/211-indian-shot-canna-indica

How to eradicate:- Dig up the tuber-like roots. Kaput should work on rhizomes if cut to the soil-surface.

6 European elder, Black elder, European black elderberry

Sambucus nigra

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/838-european-elder-sambucus-nigra

How to eradicate:- Cut back to the roots, dig up and follow long rooting system.

7 Lantana,Bird’s brandy; cherry pie; tick-berry, gewone lantana

Lantana camara (Verbenaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/267-lantana-lantana-camara

How to eradicate:- Cut back to make a stump. Poison with Kaput applied just above ground level.

8 Loquat tree, Japanese medlar; Japanese plum ; Lukwart

Eriobotrya japonica (Rosaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/248-loquat-eriobotrya-japonica

How to eradicate:- Chop down.

9 Moth catcher, Motvanger

Araujia serifera (Asclepiadaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=227:moth-catcher%257Caraujia-serifera&Itemid=275

How to eradicate:- Cut stem and apply Kaput if unable to uproot.

10 Madeira Vine / Lamb's tails, Mignonette vine, Jalap, Potato vine

Anredera cordifolia

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/882-madeira-vine-anredera-cordifolia

How to eradicate:-
SAN Parks April 2017

- Every piece of plant material removed is "double bagged and incinerated".
- SANParks is planning to release a biological agent to combat Madeira when it starts flowering.
- If you have this pest in your garden you will need expert advice and assistance in clearing it. It should definitely not be used as compost or discarded with other garden refuse, as this simply helps to facilitate it spreading even further.
- Should you require assistance with the removal of Madeira vine, please contact SANParks for guidance on how to go about it. Carlo de Kock, SANParks Biodiversity Social Project carlo.dekock@sanparks.org

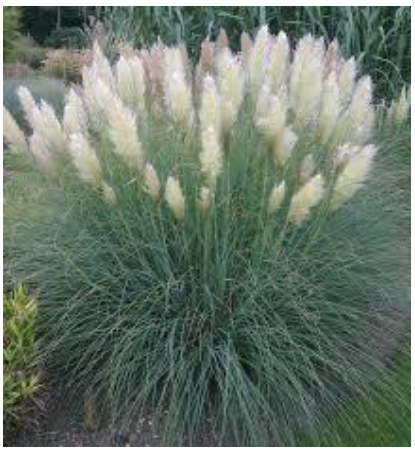
Report sightings on: http://www.ispotnature.org/projects/spot-madeira-vine-garden-route

Madeira Vine

Nuusblaadjie van AGRI EDEN : 05 May 2014

We are pleased to share what we've learnt about dealing with *Anredera cordifolia* to date:

1. The method - Locate and cut all the creeper stems at their base. Resist the temptation to remove the cut climbing stalks – this will result in numerous tubers dropping to the ground - simply leave them to die off and dry out over time.
2. Apply the registered herbicide as a foliar spray only on emerging plantlets under the trees and shrubs and to continue with regular follow-up sprays of regrowth every four months.
3. Weeding of the plantlets is discouraged as this accelerates germination (maybe not such a bad thing when you are using herbicide) and also creates the problem of disposal. These plants are extremely robust and tubers will take root and sprout wherever they fall.
4. Please note that the herbicide will affect any other broadleaf (non-grassy) plants, therefore spot-spraying the target plants may be more appropriate in areas where there is a mixture of vegetation types.
5. The herbicide "Garlon" is registered for use on this plant – the mix is .5% (5ml to 1litre of water).



11 Pampas grass / silwergras

Cortaderia selloana (Poaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/228-common-pampas-grass-cortaderia-selloana

Place a black bag over the plumes, cut them off and burn!! Then cut the grass as close to the ground as possible and apply a mixture of diesel and garlon [3%] about 4 x with a wide brush.

12 Sword fern; Boston fern; maidenhair; maidenhair fern (English), swaardvaring

Nephrolepis exaltata (Nephrolepidaceae)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/284-sword-fern-nephrolepis-exaltata

How to eradicate:- Wide spreading roots make it easy to pull out the plant. Leave to rot.

13 Ginger Lily (white, yellow & pink)

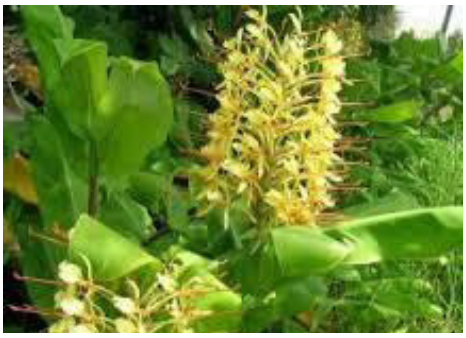
Hedychium coronarium (Zingiberaceae) (white)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/260-white-ginge-lily-hedychium-coronarium

Hedychium flavescens (yellow)

http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/item/382-yellow-ginger-lily-hedychium-flavescens

How to eradicate:- Dig up plants and tubers. Do not allow seeds to spread. Cut stems at ground level, apply Kaput. Follow up 3 and 9 months later.



yellow

white

pink

14 Australian Tree Fern

Cyathea cooperi

A medium-to-large fast growing tree fern, to 15 metres (49 ft) in height with a 12-inch (30 cm) thick trunk. The apex of the trunk and unfurling crosiers are particularly attractive, covered as they are with conspicuous long, silky, straw colored scales. The crown is widely spread and the light green fronds may reach a length of 4–6 metres.

For the layman:- The Australian Fern has an unmistakeable GIS - fronds have a graceful arc, our beauty has more upright fronds. The 'pubes' (short 'n curlies!) that occur on the top of the indigenous one are another good characteristic and currently(April) has no spores - another difference.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyathea_cooperi :*"Invasive species It has naturalised in Western Australia, South Australia, and parts of New South Wales where it is not native. It has also naturalized in Hawaii and has become a problem there as an aggressive invasive species."*

How to eradicate: The root system is not deep so it is fairly easy to dig up or pull out. Upend the plant to let the roots dry and let the plant die off.

SA Tree Fern Frond

AUS Tree Fern Frond

AUS Tree Fern

As stated in the introduction, this is a simple introduction to our local most common Invasive Alien Plants.

If you would like to organise an informative event in your neighbourhood we will gladly assist.

WESSA
PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH

WESSA Eden Committee
wessa.george@isat.co.za