



Managing weed waste

Landcare Fact Sheet No.4

Although sending removed weeds to the rubbish tip may seem like the easiest option, there are many benefits to managing weed waste on site. Some benefits include:

- Weed waste can provide habitat for wildlife while it is breaking down and native plants are regenerating.
- As weed waste breaks down, it returns nutrients back to the site that can aid regrowth / planted natives.
- Weed waste can act as a mulch, protecting soil from erosion and drying out, which acts like a 'refuge' for roots of nearby plants.
- It can provide a windbreak for establishing plants.
- On-site management reduces green-waste disposal costs and the risks associated with transporting weeds (e.g. risk of spreading weeds).
- On-site management can be more environmentally-friendly, with reduced carbon emissions compared to taking green-waste to the tip.



Above: A new planting benefiting from the mulch dead Lantana provides.

To provide these benefits, weed waste must be managed appropriately and it has to be the 'right' type of weed waste. So how do you know what to send to the tip and what to use on site? Of course all weed waste that contains seeds / fruits should be bagged and disposed of (to landfill not green waste) as it is very hard to kill seeds in on-site composting (as piles usually cannot be big enough to generate the heat needed to kill the seeds). However, by targeting weeds in the seasons before they fruit/ set seed some can be safely left to break down on site.

The table on the next page may assist in deciding which weeds (that are not fruiting/ seeding) can be managed in this way. It places common weeds in three different categories:

1. 'Dispose All Parts' Weeds – These are weeds that spread very easily vegetatively (that is, from bulbs, corns, tubers, root parts, stem fragments). It is best to bag and dispose of all parts of these plants to prevent reinfestation on site.
2. 'Ok to Leave' weeds – These weeds die quickly once removed from the soil and are unlikely to regrow. It is okay to use them as mulch etc on site.
3. 'Leave with Care' Weeds – These weeds have some ability to reshoot but, with special care using suggested techniques, it can be beneficial to manage their waste (non fruiting parts) on site. Once the weeds are completely dead and dried out they can be used as mulch.

Remember Weed management is often very specific to different sites and may be influenced by physical aspects such as site moisture and other aspects such as public perception and available budgets! The advice provided here is only general in nature and site specific advice should always take preference. If you are concerned about how to manage weeds and their waste on your site contact the LRC or, for noxious weeds, Council's Vegetation and Pest Management Coordinator.

Weed name	Dispose all parts	OK to leave non-seeding parts on site	Leave non seeding parts with care	Notes on managing weed waste
African Olive - <i>Olea europaea</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Asparagus Fern - ground - <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>			x	Remove all seeds and crowns
Balloon Vine - <i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>			x	Remove all fruit. Leave vine intact to avoid canopy damage
Bitou Bush - <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp rotundata</i>			x	Keep larger pieces off sandy ground by rafting*
Blackberry - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>			x	Keep canes off ground / raft*
Bridal Creeper - <i>Asparagus aparagoides</i>			x	Remove underground tubers.
Buffalo Grass - <i>Stentaphrum secundatum</i>			x	Keep off damp ground. Remove stolons/ rhizomes.
Camphor Laurel - <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Cape Ivy - <i>Delairea odorata</i>			x	Plant sections can regrow- raft*
Castor Oil Plant - <i>Ricinus communis</i>		x		Remove seed heads
Cotoneaster - <i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Crofton Weed - <i>Ageratina adenophora</i>			x	Raft*
English Ivy - <i>Hedera helix</i>			x	Roll up and hang or lift off ground.
Fireweed - <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>		x		Remove flowers and seeds
Formosa Lilly - <i>Lilium formosanum</i>			x	Remove seed heads and onion/rhizome
Golden Wreath Wattle - <i>Acacia saligna</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Green Cestrum - <i>Cestrum parqui</i>			x	Roots can regrow -raft*
Indian Hawthorn - <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Japanese Honeysuckle - <i>Lonicera japonica</i>			x	Roll up and hang
Kikuyu Grass - <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>			x	Keep off damp ground/ raft*
Lantana - <i>Lantana camara</i>			x	Raft* (lift larger pieces off ground)
Madeira Vine - <i>Anredera cordifolia</i>			x	Leave vine intact to avoid canopy damage. Remove tubers.
Mirror Bush - <i>Coprosma repens</i>		x		
Morning Glory (Blue & Costal) - <i>Ipomoea indica & I. cairica</i>			x	Roll up and hang or lift off ground. Leave vines intact to avoid canopy damage.
Moth Vine - <i>Araujia sericifera</i>			x	Remove all fruit. Leave vine intact to avoid canopy damage.
Mother of Millions - <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i>	x			Ensure all material put into garbage (not green waste)
Mt Morgan Wattle - <i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Ochna (Micky Mouse) - <i>Ochna serrulata</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Pampas Grass - <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>			x	Remove all seed plumes. Monitor for regrowth from other.
Prickly Pear - <i>Opuntia sp.</i>			x	Bake in full sun on impervious surface/ black plastic
Privet (broad & small leaf) - <i>Ligustrum lucidum and L. sinense</i>			x	Remove all seeds. Young Small-leaf privets should be dug out and the plants placed upside-down to dry out the roots.
Senna (Cassia) - <i>Senna pendula var. glabrata</i>		x		Remove all seeds
Trad (Wandering Jew) - <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>			x	Roll up in black plastic and full sun to sweat it
Turkey Rubarb - <i>Acetosa sagittata</i>			x	Remove tubers or leave in ground if sprayed by LRC
Umbrella Tree - <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>			x	Remove all fruit, raft* branches.
Weeping Willow - <i>Salix sp.</i>			x	Keep off wet ground where possible
Wild Tobacco - <i>Solanum maritimum</i>		x		Remove seed heads

* Rafting involves placing the material that you have cut away in small piles off the ground on top of dead material such as sticks or bark. Rafting prevents the stems coming in contact with bare soil and regenerating.



Landcare Resource Centre
 Cnr Toronto and Five Islands Rds, Teralba, NSW 2284
 Postal Address: Box 1906 HRMC NSW 2310
 Phone: (02) 4921 0392, Email: lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au
www.lakemacquarielandcare.org



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