

Environmental Weeds of Hyams Beach

Environmental weeds invade native vegetation and may replace native plants, impacting on the quality and extent of habitat for native species. Generally environmental weeds outcompete native species by their reproductive strategies such as prolific seeds, seeds distributed by birds, vegetative reproduction, and growth habit (prolific root systems, rapid growth, climbing and smothering). Recent changes and trends in Hyams Beach may be increasing the extent of environmental weeds, including the absence of fire management (many native species require fire to reproduce and remain vigorous), land clearing, dumping of weed material, and increased visitation increasing incursions into native bushland and trampling and destruction of native vegetation

Hyams Beach is surrounded by native vegetation of Jervis Bay National Park. Managing environmental weeds within Hyams Beach will reduce invasion by those weeds into the National Park, and will retain and improve pockets of native vegetation and species diversity within Hyams Beach.

The purpose of this leaflet is to increase residents' capability to identify and take early action to reduce invasive weeds in Hyams Beach, understand and manage some of the processes and trends which may be increasing the extent of weeds, and to plan and plant gardens which add to the environmental values of Hyams Beach and surrounds.

Cassia (*Senna sp.*)



Description

Straggly evergreen shrub 1-3m high. This weed is in the pea family, has a **large yellow pea flower, and produces prolific bean like pods in Autumn**

Occurs

Gardens in Hyams Beach, In the creek line between Booderee Avenue and Hyam Road and where seeds may be distributed in water.

Dispersal

Seed in garden waste, in water and contaminated soil

Control strategies

Remove from creek lines and gardens. Remove bean pods and dispose of safely, hand pull or cut paint. The plant will re-sprout from the roots or stem. Seeds are long lived.

Fishbone fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)



Description

Fishbone fern is an Australian native plant endemic to the northern and central coasts of New South Wales. It has become invasive as an environmental weed in areas around Sydney

Occurs

In bushland along Cyrus Street north Hyams where it has been dumped

Control strategies

Generally herbicide control. Small infestations may be hand pulled. Dispose of the remains carefully, since material left in contact with the ground may take root again.

Asparagus fern (*Asparagus asparagoides*)



Description

Asparagus fern is an erect herb, climber or shrub 0.4-0.8 m tall, usually with year-round foliage.

The root system consists of long, narrow rhizomes and fibrous roots that lack tubers. Each plant has a small number of erect, spineless, wiry stems. Tiny white flowers followed by orange berries are borne year round.

Occurs

Moist areas in gardens, in drains and creek lines in Hyams Beach (particularly in the creek line between Booderee Av. and Hyam Road).

Control strategies

Hand pull or dig out removing the underground rhizomes. Dispose of safely. Suitable methods of herbicide control are cut and paint, basal bark spray and spot spray applied when plants are actively growing.

Mother of Millions (*Bryophyllum* spp.)



Description

Mother of millions is a succulent perennial plant growing 30 cm to 1 m in height. The stems are pinkish-brown or greyish in colour. The leaves are pencil-shaped, pale green to pale brown in colour with dark green patches and a shallow groove on the upper surface. There are up to seven projections at the tip of each leaf which when broken off can develop into new plants. The flowers are orange-red in colour and occur in a cluster at the top of a single stem. Flowering can occur from May to October.

Occurs

Grows on gravel and sandy soils. It is a weed of bushland and disturbed sites such as roadsides, along fence lines, around rubbish tips and abandoned rural dwellings. It also occurs frequently along creeks and rivers where it is spread by floodwaters.

Control strategies

For small infestations, mother of millions can be removed by pulling up individual plants by hand. Once the plants have been removed they should be burnt; stored in black plastic bags until completely decayed or buried.

Kikuyu Grass



Description

Vigorous grass which cover the ground and creeps over plants, with long stolons and underground rhizomes.

Occurs

Commonly used as lawn in Hyams Beach. Kikuyu invades dry coastal vegetation, heathland and heathy woodland, lowland grassland and grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and woodland, and riparian vegetation. It is invading bushland from the Hyams Beach Park.

Control strategies

Use as lawn should be avoided in Hyams Beach, especially where properties adjoin native bushland, in favour of Buffalo grass. Spray with herbicide. Where it has invaded native vegetation, for example Lomandra, it can be oversprayed in June without killing native species

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia species*)



Description

Very large tussock grass with white or beige plume like seed heads on long stems to 3m.

Occurs

Behind houses in Tulip Street, and in some creek lines. Seeds are spread by wind

Control strategies

Remove seed heads when flowering, carefully bag for burning or deep burial. Dig out.

Whisky grass (*Andropogon virginicus*)



Description

A tall grass (to 1m). During summer it is an orange-brown colour then fades to straw colour in winter. Seed is surrounded by white hairs to about 1cm long.

Occurs

Found along White Sands Track and in gardens. It invades forest and other native vegetation. Mostly restricted to disturbed sites.

Control strategies

Dig plants out and dispose of them carefully to avoid spreading the seed. Spot spraying can also be used to remove scattered plants.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND WEED INFORMATION NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES HAS A COMPREHENSIVE WEBSITE

NSW WeedWise contains over 300 weed profiles, describing:

- **Profile**
- **Control** (including registered herbicide options)
- **Biosecurity duty** (under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*)

<http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

NSW Department of Primary Industries – weed wise app information

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/nsw-weedwise-app>

Weed control and identification

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control>

Weed categories

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-categories>