Plants can become environmental weeds when they escape from gardens into surrounding bushland, dune and creek edges. Plants from overseas and even native plants from other parts of Queensland and Australia have the potential to become weeds, therefore:

- treat any new plants with caution
- when in doubt, leave it as a container plant or isolate it
- think about what you are planting
- weeds can be spread when garden cuttings are dumped – even lawn cuttings can introduce weed seeds
- wind and birds can spread seeds from your garden, you can reduce this by removing spent flowers before they set seed

The weeds listed in this guide are by no means a complete list of plants that can become environmental weeds. If you are unsure as to the correct identification of a plant seek further advice before removing it, it may well be a native plant introduced into your garden by wind or birds.

Plants bought for aquariums can become weeds in our waterways. Aquarium plants must never be disposed into creeks, waterways or drains. Cabomba or Fanwort (Cabomba caroliniana) is an example of an aquarium plant that overtakes waterways blocking out light and oxygen to native aquatic plants and animals. Other serious water weeds are Alligator weed (Alternanthera philoxeroides), Salvinia (Salvinia molesta) and Water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes).
**Weed Identification Guide**

### Plant Type
- Tree
- Shrub
- Groundcover
- Grass
- Vine
- Aquatic

### Flowering Time
- Summer
- Autumn
- Spring
- Winter
- Year round

### Leaf Arrangement
- Compound
- Whorled
- Alternate
- Opposite
- Basal

### Invasion Mechanism
- Vegetative
- Animals
- Wind
- Bulbs, tubers etc.

### Distinguishing Plant Characteristics
- Berry
- Pods
- Flower
- Spines
- Toxic

### Control Method
- Cut and paint
- Manual
- Stem inject
- Stem scrape

### Disposal Method
- Bag and bin all parts of the plant
- Bag and bin viable seeds, bulbs, tubers or root. Compost other material not likely to regrow
**Manual Hand Removal (Minimal Disturbance)**
1. Gently remove any seeds or fruits and place into a bag.
2. Hold stem at ground level.
3. Rock plant backwards and forwards to loosen roots, and pull out or use a gardening hand tool.
4. Tap roots to dislodge any soil. Replace disturbed soil.

**Stem Scraping**
1. With a knife, scrape 15 to 30cm of the stem to reach the layer below the bark/outer layer.
2. Immediately apply herbicide along the length of the scrape.

**Cut and Paint - Useful for small to medium sized woody weeds**
1. Make a horizontal cut as close to the ground as possible with secateurs, loppers or a bush saw.
2. Immediately apply herbicide to the exposed flat stump surface.

**Stem Injection, Frilling or Chipping**
1. Injection - At the base of the tree drill holes at a 45 degree angle into the sapwood at 5cm intervals. Or Frill/Chip - Make a cut into the sapwood with a chisel or axe.
2. Fill each hole/cut with herbicide immediately.
3. Repeat the process at 5cm intervals around the base.
Environmental Weed Tall Palm Fern

Cocos palm
*Syagrus romanzoffiana*
Made popular by the landscape industry. Their orange fruits are spread by flying foxes, and germinate easily in bushland areas.
Replace with:
**Piccabeen palm**
*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*
**Cabbage tree palm**
*Livistona australis*

Camphor laurel
*Cinnamomum camphora*
Aggressive invader along waterways forming dense infestations. Toxic to wildlife. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.
Replace with:
**Tuckeroo**
*Cupaniopsis anarcardiodes*
**Three veined laurel**
*Cryptocarya triplinervis var. pubens*
**Cooloola ironwood**
*Rhodamnia acuminata*
**Muttonwood**
*Myrsine variabilis*
**Umbrella tree**  
*Schefflera actinophylla*
Australian native from North Queensland but highly invasive in South East Queensland.  
Replace with:  
**Beach acronychia**  
*Acronychia imperforata*  
**Pink euodia**  
*Melicope elleryana*  
**Bleeding heart**  
*Homalanthus populifolius*  
**Three veined laurel**  
*Cryptocarya triplinervis var. pubens*

**Broad leaf pepper tree**  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*
Native to Brazil, this tree can grow to 8m. Aggressive invader in coastal wetlands and disturbed areas. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.  
Replace with:  
**Blueberry ash**  
*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*  
**Tuckeroo**  
*Cupaniopsis anarcardioides*  
**Beach bird’s eye**  
*Alectryon coriaceus*  
**Cooloola ironwood**  
*Rhodamnia acuminata*
Leucaena
Leucaena leucocephala
Often planted as a fodder plant for cattle. This agricultural escapee sets tens of thousands of seeds per season, rapidly colonising disturbed areas.
Replace with:
Irish wattle
Acacia oshanesii
Golden candlessticks
Banksia spinulosa
Wild may
Leptospermum polygalifolium

Mock orange
Murraya paniculata
This popular garden plant is highly invasive in natural bushland and is set to be a major weed in the future.
Replace with:
Blueberry ash
Elaeocarpus reticulatus
Carrol myrtle
Backhousia myrtifolia
Narrow-leaved lilly pilly
Acmena smithii
Brazilian cherry
_Eugenia uniflora_
This common garden plant is highly favoured by birds who aid in its dispersal through natural areas.
Replace with:
Carrol myrtle
_Backhousia myrtifolia_
Python tree
_Gossia bidwillii_
Blue lilly pilly
_Syzygium oleosum_
Narrow-leaved lilly pilly
_Acmena smithii 'var minor'_

Yellow bells
_Tecoma stans_
Ornamental garden escapee which grows to 5m. Potential to become abundant due to prolific quantities of seed produced. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.
Replace with:
Quinine berry
_Petalostigma pubescens_
Forest pittosporum
_Pittosporum revolutum_
Prickly-leaved paperbark
_Melaleuca nodosa_
Groundsel bush
*Baccharis halimifolia*

Groundsel is a declared plant in Queensland. Its removal is required by law.
Replace with:
- **Carrol myrtle** *Backhousia myrtifolia*
- **Weeping baeckea** *Baeckea frutescens*
- **Plum myrtle** *Pilidiostigma glabrum*
- **Beach acronychia** *Acronychia imperforata*

Duranta
*Duranta repens*

This popular garden plant forms dense impenetrable thickets when allowed to spread into bushland.
Replace with:
- **Beach bird’s eye** *Alectryon coriaceus*
- **Coastal banksia** *Banksia integrifolia subsp. integrifolia*
- **Carrol myrtle** *Backhousia myrtifolia*
- **Lemon-scented myrtle** *Backhousia citriodora*
Lantana
*Lantana sp.*
Highly invasive, forms dense thickets that smother native vegetation. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.
Replace with:
**Golden candlesticks**
*Banksia spinulosa*

**Native lasiandra**
*Melastoma malabathricum subsp. malabathricum*

**Velvet leaf**
*Callicarpa pedunculata*

**Hairy bush pea**
*Pultenaea villosa*

**Indian hawthorn**
*Raphiolepis indica*
A common garden plant spread by birds, this plant colonises bushland areas often forming dense thickets suppressing native regeneration.
Replace with:
**Thread-barked myrtle**
*Gossia inophloia*

**Twiggy myrtle**
*Sannantha similis*

**Wild may**
*Leptospermum polygalifolium*
**Easter cassia**
*Senna pendula var. glabrata*

Sprawling shrub from South America that colonises bushland areas preventing native regeneration.

Replace with:
**Sweet wattle**
*Acacia suaveolens*

**Hairy bush pea**
*Pultenaea villosa*

**Swamp banksia**
*Banksia robur*

**Small leaf geebung**
*Persoonia virgata*

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**Coral berries**
*Ardisia spp.*

The dark green glossy foliage and red berries made these shrubs a popular indoor plant or for use in shaded gardens. Seeds are readily dispersed into bushland where they will thrive. Berries should be removed before ripening in winter to prevent dispersal.

Replace with:
**Creek lillypilly**
*Acmena smithii*
Mickey mouse plant
*Ochna serrulata*
A woody shrub that has an angled tap root which is easily broken when hand-pulled.
Replace with:
**Hovea**
*Hovea acutifolia*
**Lemon-scented tea tree**
*Leptospermum liversidgei*
**Hop bush**
*Dodonea triquetra*

Bitou bush
*Chrysanthemoides monilfera subsp. rotundata*
A Class 1 declared plant of Queensland, bitou bush removal is required by law.
Replace with:
**Mangrove boobialla**
*Myoporum boninense subsp. australe*
**Wild may**
*Leptospermum polygalifolium*
**Hakea**
*Hakea plurinervia*
**Twiggy baecke**
*Sannantha bidwillii*

More than 30,000 years to create our local environment - less than 150 years to destroy it.
Agave
*Agave americana*
A large prickly succulent grown as an ornamental plant in gardens for their flower spike.
Replace with:
River lily
*Crinum pedunculatum*
Pandanus
*Pandanus tectorius*
Mat rush
*Lomandra longifolia*
Grass tree
*Xanthorrhoea fulva/
*Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*

Purple splash
*Alternanthera dentata*
This popular ornamental edging plant is closely related to the declared Alligator Weed and is proving to be as potentially invasive.
Replace with:
Thyme-leaved honey myrtle
*Melaleuca thymifolia*
Midyim berry
*Austromyrtus dulcis*
Dwarf baeckea
*Babingtonia similis*
Bush pea
*Pultenaea villosa*
Asparagus fern  
*Asparagus aethiopicus*

Spreads rapidly dominating dunal systems, smothering native groundcovers. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland. Replace with:

- **Midyim berry**  
  *Austromyrtus dulcis*
- **Rough maidenhair**  
  *Adiantum hispidulum*
- **Bungwall fern**  
  *Blechnum indicum*

Mother of millions  
*Bryophyllum spp.*

Highly invasive ornamental plants. New plants will grow from any plant part that touches soil, be very careful to remove every part and destroy. Replace with:

- **Kangaroo grass**  
  *Themeda triandra*
- **Weeping baeckea**  
  *Baeckea frutescens*
- **Pigface**  
  *Carpobrotus glaucescens*
- **Yellow buttons**  
  *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*
Succulents
*Callisia fragrans; Callisia repens; Tradescantia zebrina*

Three prostrate species widely used as groundcover or hanging basket plants. All three have fleshy leaves and may shoot from the stem nodes (segments). Keep contained, as even the smallest stem piece can grow into a new plant.

Replace with:
- **Bungwall**
  *Blechnum indicum*
- **Native violet**
  *Viola banksii*
- **Pale flax lily**
  *Dianella longifolia*

Canna lily
*Canna indica*

Often found invading moist areas and once established forms impenetrable thickets that are difficult to eradicate.

Replace with:
- **Palm lily**
  *Cordyline ruba*
- **Native ginger**
  *Alpinia caerulea*
- **River lily**
  *Crinum pedunculatum*

Escaped garden plants make up over 70% of the listed environmental weeds in Australia.
Environmental Weed Groundcover

**Painted spurge**  
*Euphorbia cyathophora*  
Native annual of tropical America naturalised in dry disturbed coastal areas.  
Replace with:  
**Wallum bottlebrush**  
*Melaleuca pachyphylla*  
**Wallum grevillea**  
*Grevillea leiophylla*  
**Thyme-leaved honey myrtle**  
*Melaleuca thymifolia*  
**Rice flower**  
*Pimelea linifolia subsp. linifolia*

**Gazania**  
*Gazania rigens*  
A popular groundcover used for commercial and home gardens. It has the potential to displace native groundcover species when plants are dumped in natural areas as greenwaste.  
Replace with:  
**Small-leaved guinea flower**  
*Hibbertia vestita*  
**Fan flower**  
*Scaevola calendulacea*  
**Pig face**  
*Carpobrotus glaucescens*
Gloriosa lily
*Gloriosa superba*
Garden escapee that is rapidly displacing native plants along the coastal dunes. Toxic.
Replace with:
- **Jack bean**
  *Canavalia rosea*
- **Fan flower**
  *Scaevola calendulacea*
- **Rice flower**
  *Pimelea linifolia subsp. linifolia*

Balsam
*Impatiens walleriana*
Invades moist shady places and quickly suppresses native seedlings and groundcovers.
Replace with:
- **Rice flower**
  *Pimelea linifolia*
- **Native violet**
  *Viola banksii*
- **Forest lobelia**
  *Lobelia trigonocaulis*
- **Common flax lily**
  *Dianella caerulea*
Environmental Weed Groundcover

**Fishbone fern**
*Nephrolepis cordifolia*
Invasive fern that out-competes native groundcovers. Needs persistence to remove once established.
Replace with:
**Bungwall fern**
*Blechnum indicum*
**Rough maidenhair**
*Adiantum hispidulum*
**Rasp fern**
*Doodia aspera*
**Common flax lily**
*Dianella caerulea*

**Prickly pear**
*Opuntia sp.*
A Class 2 declared plant of Queensland that can form large clumps in natural areas.
Replace with:
**Native lasiandra**
*Melastoma malabathricum subsp. malabathricum*
**Dwarf banksia**
*Bankzia oblongifolia*
**Broad-leaved Banksia**
*Bankzia robur*
Mother-in-law’s tongue
Sansevieria trifasciata
Often spread through people dumping garden waste. Once established it is difficult to eradicate.
Replace with:
Grass tree
Xanthorrhoea fulva/
Xanthorrhoea johnsonii
Vanilla lily
Sowerbaea juncea
River lily
Crinum pedunculatum
Beach flax lily
Dianella congesta

Singapore daisy
Spagenticola trilobata
Highly invasive garden escapee. Forms a dense carpet, smothering native regeneration. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.
Replace with:
Twining guinea flower
Hibbertia scandens
Australian bugle flower
Ajuga australis
Fan flower
Scaevola caldendulaezae
Beach flax lily
Dianella congesta
Environmental Weed Vine

**Madeira vine**
*Auricula cordifolia*
This extremely invasive garden escapee smothers and destroys native bushland. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.
Replace with: **Richmond birdwing butterfly vine**
*Pararistolochia praevenosa*

**Dutchman’s pipe**
*Aristolochia elegans*
This species is poisonous to the caterpillars of the rare Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.
Replace with: **Richmond birdwing butterfly vine**
*Pararistolochia praevenosa*

**Scrambling lily**
*Geitonoplesium cymosum*

**Wax flower**
*Hoya australis subsp. australis*

**Fraser island creeper**
*Tecomanthe hillii*

**Monkey rope**
*Parsonsia straminea*

**Fraser island Creeper**
*Tecomanthe hillii*

**Native jasmine**
*Morinda jasminoides*

**Richmond birdwing butterfly vine**
*Pararistolochia praevenosa*
These three vines can smother native vegetation and displace native vine species.

**Moon flower**
*Ipomoea alba*
Moon vine is a species of night-blooming morning-glory which is native to tropical and subtropical regions of South America.

**Blue morning glory**
*Ipomoea indica*
Mile-a-minute has pale mauve or white flowers and was considered native to tropical Africa and Asia but is now widespread in South-east Queensland.

**Mile-a-minute**
*Ipomoea cairica*
This vine has deep purple flowers and can smother native shrubs and trees into the canopy.

Replace with:

- **Richmond birdwing butterfly vine**
  *Pararistolochia praevenosa*

- **Native wisteria**
  *Callerya megasperma*

- **Twining guinea flower**
  *Hibbertia scandens*

- **Bower of beauty**
  *Pandorea jasminoides*
Archer axillaris
*Macrotyloma axillaris*

Glycine
*Neonotonia wightii*

Siratro
*Macroptilium atropurpureum*

All three vines were introduced into Australia to improve pastures. They are readily dispersed by seed and all three have become serious weeds in bushland and gardens where they smother native and landscape plants.

Replace with:

**Twining guinea flower**
*Hibbertia scandens*

**Native sarsaparilla**
*Hardenbergia violacea*

The world doesn't stop at your fence - neither do the weeds. Wind, water and birds spread them, so do the right thing.
Corky passion vine
*Passiflora suberosa*
Displaces and strangles native vegetation.
Replace with:
Scrambling lily
*Geitonoplesium cymosum*
Wonga vine
*Pandorea pandorana*
Fraser island Creeper
*Tecomanthe hillii*
Richmond birdwing
Butterfly vine
*Pararistolochia praevenosa*

Brazilian nightshade
*Solanum seaforthianum*
This weed species originates from South America. The leaves cluster on the twining stems which may smother native trees & shrubs. In summer the deep purple flower heads are followed by bright red succulent berries which are dispersed by birds.
Replace with:
Bower of beauty
*Pandorea jasminoides*
Native wisteria
*Callerya megasperma*
Fraser Island creeper
*Tecomanthe hillii*
Environmental Weed Vine

**Arrowhead vine**  
*Syngonium spp*  
Very fast growing trailing plants often used as indoor or hanging basket plants. While leaf colours may vary between the different species they all retain the arrowhead shape which give these plants their common name. 
Replace with:  
**Wax flower**  
*Hoya australis*

**Black-eyed susan**  
*Thunbergia alata*  
A vigorous climber from Africa. The soft, hairy leaves are almost lost amongst the deep orange flowers from late spring to early autumn. This perennial plant is increasingly being identified in bushland areas on the east coast of Australia. 
Replace with:  
**Native sarsaparilla**  
*Hardenbergia violacea*  
**Fraser Island creeper**  
*Tecomantbe hillii*  
**Richmond birdwing butterfly vine**  
*Pararistolochia praevenosa*
Alligator weed
Alternanthera philoxeroides
Spreading perennial native to South America. Grows with roots in the soil or floating on the water’s surface. The leaves are opposite on hollow stems and the papery white flowers form a ball-like shape at the leaf axils. Declared class 1 pest.
Replace with:
Knobbly club-rush
Ficinia nodosa
Tall sedge
Carex appressa
Woolly frogsmouth
Philydrum lanuginosum

Cabomba
Cabomba caroliniana
Submerged aquatic plant with stems that can grow up to 3m. The feathery, fanlike foliage and white emergent flowers readily identify this species. Declared class 2 pest often moved by boating and fishing equipment.
Replace with:
Water snowflake
Nymphoides indica
Swamp lily
Ottelia ovalifolia

Dispose of your aquarium plants thoughtfully. They spread like wildfire choking our waterways.
**Water lettuce**
*Pistia stratiotes*

This Class 2 declared plant has commonly been grown in water features and ponds. The large rosette of thick leaves floats on the waters surface. Flowers are hidden amongst the leaves. This plant is still sometimes found for sale. Replace with:
**Native waterlily**
*Nymphaea violacea*

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**Salvinia**
*Salvinia molesta*

An introduced plant from South America that has been declared a Class 2 pest plant of Queensland. It is illegal to sell or distribute. Often spread through use as an ornamental plant or by being moved by boating/fishing equipment. Light green, opposite leaves are hairy on the surface giving buoyancy. Replace with:
**Swamp lily**
*Ottelia ovalifolia*
**Native waterlily**
*Nymphaea violacea*
The local native plants in this brochure may not be available at some nurseries. Like all businesses, nurseries respond to market demands. If the plants you want aren’t in stock, request them. Every time you ask you are increasing the demand - and the supply will follow. Weekend markets are often another source of plants - take care that you don’t waste your money buying a weed.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

For more information on other plants that are native to the Sunshine Coast Region, the following books may assist you:

- Leiper G et al (2010), *Mangroves to Mountains*, Published by Logan River Branch SGAP, (Qld Region) Inc.
The first edition of this booklet was developed and produced by a small dedicated group of Coolum District Coast Care volunteers.

This edition is produced by Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with Coolum District Coast Care Group.

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Photos for this edition have been provided courtesy of Stephanie Haslam, Leigh Warneminde, John Russell, Coolum Community Native Nursery, Michael Gilles, Chris Jonkers, Paul Donatiu, Suzanne Aspland, Jake Hazzard, Melinda Barlow, Ray Seddon, Qld Museum, Coolum District Coast Care Group, Dept of Primary Industries and Forestry and Cameron Traill.