



How are weeds spread?

Unfortunately, the majority of weeds are spread by human intervention or activity including:

- Transport by machinery and vehicles across properties, districts and even state borders
- Contamination of stock feed.
- Illegal dumping of plant material

Preventing the spread of weeds is difficult. Machinery, equipment, garden waste, livestock, grain, produce, fodder, landscaping material, extractive materials, native animals, wind, water and humans are just some of the potential carriers for hitchhiking weed seeds.

Many weeds have physical characteristics that allow them to be easily transported over long distances. Vehicles can readily spread the small seeds of Athel pine, Bridal creeper and giant rat's tail grass, just a few seeds of which can easily colonize and dominate new areas. Other weeds, such as the waterweed alligator weed, can spread even if just a part of the plant gets caught on a boat or trailer and is moved to another river or dam. The seeds of prickly acacia can survive eight days inside a cow and still germinate once defecated.

One of the most cost-effective ways to control weeds is to prevent their spread.

What you can do to stop weeds spreading

There are many ways to Fight the Weed Invaders and reduce weed spread, many are voluntary, based on good practice; and some are required under legislation in various states. Everyone has the potential to spread weeds. You can help prevent this by:

- Getting involved in community programs such as Weedbuster
- Knowing the weeds in your area
- Making sure you can identify and control any weed that might contaminate material you obtain
- Cleaning your vehicle at the earliest opportunity after taking it off-road or onto a bush track
- Cleaning your equipment, boots, and machinery before you leave known weed infested areas
- Not spreading weeds by moving infested hay, seed, livestock and other things
- Contacting landholders before going onto their properties to check what their requirements are to prevent the spread of weeds.
- Requesting that visitors clean their vehicle, machinery and equipment before entering your property.
- Not dumping garden waste in bush or parkland.
- Controlling weed infestations before they spread and become a major problem.

More information

- Visit www.weedbusters.info or www.weeds.org.au
- Contact your local nursery or garden center (www.ngia.com.au)
- Contact your local government weeds officer or State Government conservation / agriculture department