

Get to know...

State Priority Weeds

State Priority Weeds in NSW include species listed as Prohibited Matter under Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act 2015, as well as those subject to Control Orders and Biosecurity Zones. If introduced and allowed to establish, these species could cause serious harm to livestock production, native ecosystems, or human health.

Prohibited Matter weeds are either not yet present in NSW or occur only in isolated instances. *It is an offence to deal with any of these species.*

Weeds subject to a **Biosecurity Zone** are established in part of the state, but strict measures are in place to prevent their spread to other regions. These species must be eradicated outside of the defined zone.

Weeds subject to a **Control Order** may be present in small numbers in various parts of the state. They must be immediately destroyed and the land kept free of that species.

If you suspect or become aware of any of these high-risk weeds, *it is your responsibility to report them immediately* to Snowy Monaro Regional Council on 1300 345 345.

The following species have been detected in NSW or the ACT and could tolerate the Monaro's climate. For a full list of State Priority weeds see NSW WeedWise at weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Parthenium Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*)

Prohibited Matter

Parthenium weed is a highly invasive prolific seeder which can cause respiratory problems and severe dermatitis for people, in some cases being so extreme that they have to move away from infested areas. Parthenium weed is also toxic to livestock, taints milk and meat, and contaminates grain. It releases chemicals that inhibit the growth of other species, allowing it to outcompete other species and reduce crop yields.

Where is it found?

Parthenium weed is widespread in central Queensland. There are currently no known established populations within NSW with all previous incursions having been eradicated.

How does it spread?

Parthenium weed spreads by seed. These may be transported via contaminated fodder, livestock, harvest machinery, and vehicles.



Above: A parthenium weed plant (left) and a close-up view of the distinctive white star-shaped flowers (right).

24/7 Customer service line

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Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)

Biosecurity Zone

Alligator weed is considered one of the world's worst weeds due to its vigorous growth, difficulty to control, and impact on both waterways and floodplains. In waterways, it can blanket the surface, restricting access by people and animals, damaging infrastructure and impacting flora and fauna. On floodplains, it threatens pastures, crops, and turf farms.

Where is it found?

Alligator weed is present in the ACT and Greater Sydney, Hunter, and Riverina Regions of NSW. Isolated infestations are also present on the South Coast near Nowra and Batemans Bay.

How does it spread?

Alligator weed spreads by root or stem fragments attached to machinery, boats and trailers, deliberate planting for ornamental use, or in hay, turf or landscape supplies.



Above: Alligator weed infestation covering water surface (left) and a closer view showing the small white flowers (right).

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera*) Control Zone

Boneseed is a woody shrub growing to 3m high which produces small yellow daisy-like flowers in late winter to mid-spring. It's an environmental weed which forms dense stands in bushland, outcompeting native plants and reducing habitat for native fauna.

Where is it found?

Boneseed is found in all southern states with nearby infestations on the NSW south coast near Pambula, Bateman's Bay, and Eden.

How does it spread?

Seeds are commonly spread by birds which consume the fruit but may also be spread by water, in contaminated landscape supplies, attached to vehicles or machinery, or dumping of garden waste.



Above: Boneseed shrubs (left) are covered in small yellow daisy-like flowers (right) up to 3 cm in diameter.

Hawkweeds (*Pilosella species*)

Prohibited Matter

Hawkweeds are highly invasive plants with allelopathic properties that allow them to quickly outcompete grasses and other herbaceous species, forming dense stands of up to 3800 plants per square metre. They are a major threat to biodiversity and pasture productivity in alpine regions.

Where are they found?

The only known infestations of Orange hawkweed in NSW are to the west of Lake Eucumbene within KNP and in isolated pockets on private land. Mouse-ear hawkweed is only known to occur on the main range near Mt Kosciuszko where the efforts of multiple government agencies, volunteers, and sniffer dogs are highly likely to achieve eradication of this species. A third species, King devil hawkweed, has been found in Victoria but not in NSW.

How do they spread?

Hawkweeds may be spread by plant parts (stolons and rhizomes) and by seed. Seeds may be spread by wind, animals, vehicles, and attached to people or their equipment eg boots or hiking packs.



Above: Hawkweed flowers are bright orange and form clusters.



Above: Hawkweed leaves have coarse hairs on both sides.

Mexican Feathergrass (*Nasella tenuissima*)

Prohibited Matter

Mexican feather grass is a highly invasive tussock-forming perennial closely related to serrated tussock but with an even greater potential range. It is unpalatable to stock, contaminates hay, grain and wool, and invades pasture, native grasslands and woodlands.

Where is it found?

Mexican feather grass has been found in all states except Western Australia and the Northern Territory. All known occurrences in NSW have been destroyed although re-emerging plants are occasionally found in Sydney and the ACT. Some misidentified plants sold in nurseries in the ACT and Victoria remain unaccounted for.

How does it spread?

Mexican feathergrass spread by seed which may be transported by wind, people, livestock, vehicles and machinery, or movement of contaminated seed and fodder. Incorrectly labelled plants have previously been sold in nurseries as an ornamental grass.



Above: Mexican feather grass seeds.



Above: Mexican feather grass plants.

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

Biosecurity Zone

Water hyacinth is a floating aquatic plant which is considered one of the worst weeds in the world. It is highly invasive and capable of rapid spread, forming dense mats which carpet the surface of slow-moving and stationary water bodies. This restricts the movement of people, animals, and watercraft and can severely reduce water quality.

Where is it found?

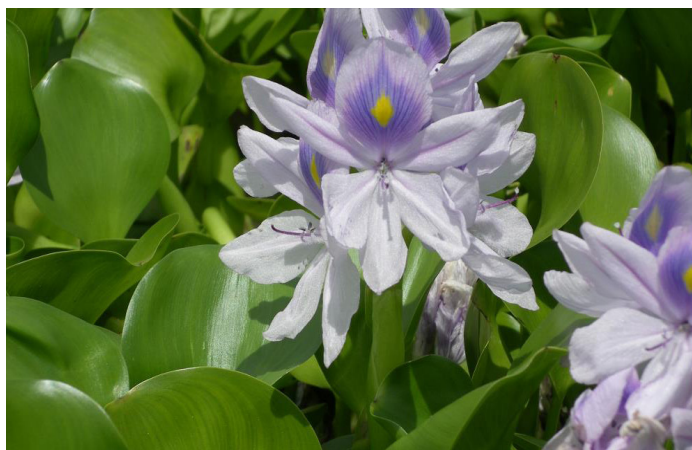
Water hyacinth has been recorded in every state except Tasmania. Within NSW Water hyacinth is mostly found in coastal areas with established infestations as far south as Kiama and isolated infestations along the South Coast.

How does it spread?

The most likely pathways for introduction to the Monaro are through the illegal movement of plants for ponds or aquariums, or accidental movement of seed or plant parts on fishing gear, watercraft, or boat trailers.



Above: A dense infestation of Water hyacinth.



Above: Water hyacinth has attractive blue or purple flowers.

Knapweeds (*Centaurea x moncktonii* and *C. stoebe* subsp. *micranthos*) Prohibited Matter

Black and spotted knapweed are highly invasive perennials which invade pastures, crops, and natural areas, produce chemicals to suppress other plants, and are very difficult to control. They look similar to thistles but without spines on the leaves or flowers.

Where are they found?

Black knapweed has previously been found near Tenterfield on the NSW Northern Tablelands. Spotted Knapweed has been found in the ACT with all plants having since been eradicated.

How do they spread?

Knapweed seeds are spread by water, wind, soil, contaminated hay, vehicles, on clothing or via wildlife and livestock, either on their fur or after being eaten. They can also spread via root fragments. Black knapweed has occasionally been sold as an ornamental species in NSW.



Above: Spotted knapweed plant.



Above: Black knapweed flowers.