

Declared Weeds in the Northern Territory

A weed is broadly considered to be a plant that requires some form of action to reduce its negative effects on the economy, the environment and human health or amenity ([Australian Weed Strategy 2017-27](#)). Some weeds are declared and have legislative controls in place to assist with reducing their impacts.

In the Northern Territory, a declared weed is a species of plant identified for preventing entry into, or management in all or part of the Territory, under section 7 of the Northern Territory [Weeds Management Act 2001](#) (the Act). The general duties and specific requirements relating to declared weeds are described in section 9 of the Act. Weed management plans apply to some declared weeds under section 10 of the Act and describe additional legal requirements for these species. A person may apply for a permit to use a declared weed under section 28 of the Act.

New declarations, and the area to which they apply, are published in the Northern Territory Government Gazette. A weed may be declared as:

- Class A** - To be eradicated
- Class B** - Growth and spread to be prevented
- Class C** - Not to be introduced to the Territory
- Class D** - Not to be spread by the actions of persons
- Unclassified** - Declared but not classified as A, B, C or D.

All Class A and Class B weeds are also considered to be Class C weeds. All weeds, regardless of classification, are subject to the general duties of the Act. The lists of weeds below are currently declared in the Northern Territory. The last change to the declared list occurred on 8 July 2024. For information on how to identify and control weeds, including the use of common names for declared weeds, contact the Weed Management Branch on 08 8999 4567, visit nt.gov.au/weeds, email weedinfo@nt.gov.au.



Top left: Boxing glove cactus (Class A) is under eradication.
Top right: Gamba grass (Class A and B) is a split declaration with eradication and management targets.
Bottom left: Parthenium (Class A) is a biosecurity threat and is eradicated upon detection.
Bottom right: Bellyache bush (Class A and B) affects both pastoral production and the environment.

Class A

Area to which declaration applies is all of the Northern Territory unless otherwise indicated. Area restrictions refer to all parts of the Northern Territory. (Exceptions and clarifications to the species covered by the declaration are indicated by footnotes).

Botanical name	Common name	Area restriction	Plan
Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligator weed		
Andropogon gyanus *	Gamba grass*	Outside B zone	WMP
Annona glabra	Pond apple		
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Onion weed		
Austrocylindropuntia spp.	Opuntoid cacti		
<i>Barleria prionitis</i>	Barleria		
Cabomba spp.	Cabomba		
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Bitou bush, boneseed		
Cryptostegia spp.	Rubber vines		
Cylindropuntia spp.	Opuntoid cacti, rope cacti		
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> *	Dalbergia*	North of 18° S	
Datura ferox	Longspine thornapple		
Dolichandra unguis-cati	Cat's claw creeper		
Syn. <i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>			
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's curse		
Eichhornia crassipes	Water hyacinth		
Hyparrhenia rufa	Thatch grass		
Jatropha curcas	Physic nut		
Jatropha gossypifolia *	Bellyache bush*	Outside B zone	WMP
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African boxthorn		
Martynia annua	Devil's claw		
Mimosa pigra *	Mimosa*	Outside B zone	WMP
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot's feather		
<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Chilean needle grass		
Nassella tenuissima	Mexican feather grass		
<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated tussock		
Neptunia plena	Water mimosa		
<i>Neptunia oleraceae</i>	Water mimosa		
Opuntia spp.	Prickly pears		
Parthenium hysterophorus	Parthenium weed		
<i>Pereskia aculeata</i>	Leaf cactus		
Prosopis spp.	Mesquite		WMP
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Blackberry		
Sagittaria platyphylla	Sagittaria		
<i>Salix</i> spp. ¹	Willows ¹		
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> *	Brazilian pepper*	North of 18° S	
<i>Senegalia catechu</i>	Cutch tree		
Syn. <i>Acacia catechu</i>			
Tamarix aphylla *	Athel pine*	Outside B zone	WMP
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse		
Vachellia nilotica	Prickly acacia		WMP
Syn. <i>Acacia nilotica</i>			
Ziziphus mauritiana	Chinee apple, Indian jujube		WMP

Class B

Area to which declaration applies is all of the Northern Territory unless otherwise indicated. Area restrictions apply to parts of the Northern Territory. (Exceptions and clarifications to the species covered by the declaration are indicated by footnotes).

Botanical name	Common name	Area restriction	Plan
<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i>	Star burr, goat's head		
<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	Khaki weed		
<i>Andropogon gyanus</i> *	Gamba grass*	Inside B zone	WMP
<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i>	Mexican poppy		
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem		WMP
<i>Calotropis procera</i> *	Rubber bush*	South of 16°30' S	
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Saffron thistle		
<i>Cenchrus echinatus</i>	Mossman River grass		
<i>Cenchrus polystachios</i>	Mission grass (perennial)		
Syn. <i>Pennisetum polystachion</i>			
<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>	Fountain grass		
<i>Emex australis</i>	Spiny emex		
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Olive hymenachne		
<i>Hyptis capitata</i>	Knob weed		
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	Hyptis		
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> *	Bellyache bush*	Inside B zone	WMP
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Common lantana		
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	Creeping lantana		
<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Lion's tail		
<i>Mimosa pigra</i> *	Mimosa*	Inside B zone	WMP
<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	Common sensitive plant		
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia		
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce		
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor oil plant		
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Salvinia		
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> *	Brazilian pepper*	South of 18° S	
<i>Senna alata</i>	Candle bush		
<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	Sicklepod		
<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Coffee senna		
<i>Sida acuta</i>	Spinyhead sida		
<i>Sida cordifolia</i>	Flannel weed		
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Paddy's lucerne		
<i>Stachytarpheta</i> spp.	Snake weeds		
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i> *	Athel pine*	Inside B zone	
<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>	Grader grass		WMP
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	Caltrop		
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Caltrop		
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Noogoora burr		
Syn. <i>Xanthium occidentale</i>			
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Bathurst burr		

Class C only (all Class A and Class B weeds are also considered to be Class C weeds.)

Area to which declaration applies is all of the Northern Territory. Exceptions and clarifications to the species covered by the declaration are indicated by footnotes.)

Botanical name	Common name
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Creeping knapweed
<i>Ageratina riparia</i>	Mistflower
<i>Amaranthus dubius</i>	Chinese spinach
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Annual ragweed
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Perennial ragweed
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira vine
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Bridal creeper
<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	Asparagus fern
<i>Asparagus declinatus</i>	Bridal veil
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Ground asparagus
<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	Climbing asparagus
<i>Asparagus plumosus</i>	Climbing asparagus Fern
Syn. <i>Asparagus setaceus</i>	
<i>Austroeupatorium inulaefolium</i>	Austroeupatorium
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel bush
<i>Boerhavia erecta</i>	Erect spiderling
<i>Brachiaria paspaloides</i>	Common signal grass
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	Siam weed
<i>Clidemia hirta</i>	Koster's curse
<i>Coix aquatica</i>	Job's tears
<i>Croton hirtus</i>	Hairy croton
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom
<i>Datura spp.</i>	Thornapples
<i>Digitaria fuscescens</i>	Common crabgrass
<i>Digitaria insularis</i>	Sourgrass
<i>Diodia sarmentosa</i>	Tropical buttonweed
<i>Echinochloa glabrescens</i>	Barnyard grass
<i>Echinochloa stagnina</i>	Burgu millet
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Dense waterweed
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian pondweed
<i>Equisetum spp.</i> ²	Horsetails ²
<i>Eriocaulon truncatum</i>	Short pipewort
<i>Eriocereus martinii</i>	Harrisia cactus
<i>Eriochloa polystachya</i>	Carib grass
<i>Fimbristylis umbellaris</i>	Globular fimbristylis
<i>Genista linifolia</i>	Flax-leaved broom
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Montpellier broom
<i>Hybanthus attenuatus</i>	Western greenviolet
<i>Hyptis brevipes</i>	Lesser roundweed
<i>Ischaemum timorense</i>	Centipede grass
<i>Kochia scoparia</i> ³	Burning bush ³
Syn. <i>Bassia scoparia</i> ³	
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Lagarosiphon

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Class C (continued)

Botanical name	Common name
<i>Leptochloa chinensis</i>	Red sprangletop, feathergrass
<i>Leptochloa panicea</i>	Sprangletop
Limnobiium laevigatum	Amazon frogbit
Limnocharis flava	Yellow burrhead, yellow sawah lettuce
<i>Miconia</i> spp.	Velvet tree
<i>Mikania cordata</i>	Heartleaf hempvine
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Mikania, mile-a-minute
<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	Giant sensitive plant
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil
<i>Orobancha</i> spp. ⁴	Broomrapes ⁴
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	Lesser Malayan stinkwort
<i>Piper aduncum</i>	Spiked pepper
<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	Downy rose myrtle
<i>Rotala indica</i>	Indian toothcup
<i>Sacciolepis interrupta</i>	Cupscale grass
<i>Salvinia cucullata</i>	Salvinia
<i>Salvinia natans</i>	Salvinia
<i>Schoenoplectus juncooides</i>	Rock bulrush
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	Sea clubrush
Syn. <i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	
<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	Fireweed
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silver leaf nightshade
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson grass
<i>Spermacoce mauritiana</i>	Pacific false buttonweed
Syn. <i>Spermacoce exilis</i>	
<i>Striga</i> spp. ⁵	Witchweeds ⁵
<i>Trapa</i> spp.	Floating water chestnuts
<i>Xanthium</i> spp.	Burrs

Unclassified

Species that are declared but not classified are subject to the general duties of the Act.

Botanical name	Common name
Cenchrus ciliaris	Buffel grass
Syn. <i>C. pennisetiformis</i>	

* This species varies in declaration status in different parts of the Territory. For more information click on the species name above, or go to nt.gov.au/weeds

¹ Except *S. babylonica* (weeping willow), *S. X calodendron* (pussy willow) & *S. X reichardtiji* (sterile pussy willow).

² All including *E. ramosissimum*.

³ All subspp. except subsp. *trichophylla*.

⁴ All except *O. minor* and *O. cernua* var. *australiana*.

⁵ All non-indigenous, including *S. angustifolia* and *S. asiatica*.

WMP = Weed Management Plan in force for this species under Section 10 of the [Weeds Management Act 2001](#).