

Agapanthus

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 5 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Agapanthus

Botanical Name: *Agapanthus praecox*

Origin: Native to southern Africa

Size: 40cm– 80cm H, 1m—1.5m W

Seeds: March—May

Flowers: November—February

Best removal time:
Before seeds form

How to dispose of weeds:

Recovery & Transfer centres:

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose weeds, contact the Environment Dept. on 1300 368 333. Limited availability.

OR

Fortnightly Garden Organics Bin Service. *Note: This service is only available to properties within eligible service areas. For more information, contact the Waste Management services on 1300 368 333.*

OR

Bundled green waste service. *Note: Check your Residential Recycling & Waste guide for details of the next service in your area.*

What it does...

Invades gardens, bushland and roadside areas. Tolerates a wide range of conditions from damp to very dry. Takes over and displaces indigenous grasses and groundcovers. It also attracts large numbers of snails and slugs.

What it looks like...

A deep green plant that grows in long leafy clumps up to around 60cm, flower heads to 120 cm tall displaying a ball of flowers, usually purple or white which appear Nov-Feb. It has a sticky sap that can cause severe ulceration in the mouth.

How it spreads...

Agapanthus spreads:

- by reproducing seed and vegetatively (root growth or fragments).
- when seeds are transported by soil movement, wind and by dumping garden waste in bushland areas.
- as it is commonly sold at markets, nurseries, fetes and club fundraisers. Buyer beware!

How to remove it...



HAND: This is only practical for small clumps of the plant. It is important to pull out **all** roots from beneath the soil. Alternatively, cut the flower heads off before seeding to help prevent spreading. Brush cutting or mowing must be done regularly.



SPRAY: Cut leaves off, brushcut or mow to stimulate new growth, then spray new growth with a registered herbicide.



DIG OUT: You will need to ensure that all the root material is removed when digging out. It is important to avoid dumping the soil elsewhere as this will further distribute the weed. The area should be monitored for any re-growth.

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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many lily and iris alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Agapanthus.

Some alternatives include:



Spiny Mat Rush, *Lomandra longifolia*



Tasman Flax Lily, *Dianella tasmanica*



Butterfly Flag, *Diplarrena moraea*



Photos: weed; Biodiversity library, Emma Campbell, Council staff.

Useful websites

The following is a list of useful information resources:

- For a list of indigenous plant nurseries, see [Indigenous Plant Nurseries list](#).
- For a list of other weeds in Yarra Ranges, see [Environmental Weeds list](#).
- For a list of chemical/herbicide contractors, see [Contractor and supplier list](#).
- For descriptions of the local plants and the weeds of the Shire of Yarra Ranges see www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants



WARNING IF USING CHEMICALS

If you are weeding, all chemical use must be done as per manufacturers' guidelines. Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eye wear at all times. Take care and protect yourself, your family, pets and the natural environment (waterways, indigenous plants, wildlife) from coming into contact with chemicals.

When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Product suppliers are required to make these sheets available at the point of sale. If a sheet is not available, notify the product manufacturer and the state authority. For further information go to www.apvma.gov.au or call the Poisons Information Service on 13 11 26.

For information on State-listed noxious weeds contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 136 186. Remember, as a landowner you are required by State law to control and remove noxious weeds on your land.

Produced by the Environment Department of Yarra Ranges Council.
Working with communities to wipe out weeds for a better future.

