

MEDIA RELEASE

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Be on the lookout for new invaders

In the wake of recent welcome rains a range of weeds have begun showing their heads across southern Queensland, flexing their ability to impact on our hip pockets and natural assets.

Local natural resource management group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, has warned land managers to be on the lookout.

Weeds Regional Coordinator for QMDC, Darren Marshall, said "After a long dry and frosty spell there is plenty of bare ground to create an ideal environment for the colonisation of weeds."

"Early identification and control of these weeds will be really important to ensure they remain manageable over the summer," he said.

"Apart from the more common weed species that most people can identify, the current conditions have also been favourable for the establishment of new weeds that may have been introduced over the dry spell," said Darren.

"In areas where fodder has been brought in over the winter, people need to be particularly vigilant at looking out for what strange or new plants may crop up."

Darren said that QMDC realised weed control would be an extra job to think about at this time, but said that it could be a big time and effort saver in the long run. "Weeds cost land managers a lot of money in lost production each year, not to mention the impact they can have on the health of our creeks and bushland," he said.

A recent study conducted by QMDC has also identified a number of weeds that will become a significant threat to production and ecological systems across the region, should the rain continue.

"There will be some new and emerging weeds that will respond well to the current climatic conditions and land managers are advised to be able to recognise these," said Darren. These include Chilean needlegrass, Giant Rats Tail grass, Giant Parramatta grass, African Lovegrass, Cats Claw creeper, and Serrated Tussock grass.

"For people living on waterways, keep an eye out for Hymenachne, Salvinia, Water Hyacinth and Water Lettuce," Darren said.

Better known species such as Lippia, Parthenium and African Boxthorn will also be on the move, he said.

For more information on the identification and control of these weed species visit one of QMDC's Landcare and Catchment Centres, your local council, or the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Biosecurity office. Alternatively, people can visit http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/pests/weeds/a_z_listing.html to learn more and see images of these weeds.

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Media contact/s

Released by: Amelia Radford, Communication Officer, 07 4637 6234

More information: Darren Marshall, Regional Coordinator, Weeds & Pest Animals, 0429 056 450