

2026
Calendar

State Prohibited Weeds

Water hyacinth – *Eichhornia crassipes*

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



Acknowledgements

Camel thorn images - Western Australia Agriculture Authority, 1998;
Richard Old, Bugwood.org

Lagarosiphon images - National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research,
New Zealand (John Clayton and Rohan Wells); Andrew Petroeschevsky.

Parthenium weed images - Dinesh Valke; Biswarup Ganguly;
USDA Agricultural Research Service (Charles T. Bryson); Department of Employment, Economic
Development and Innovation, Queensland.

Mouse-ear hawkweed images - Kerry Wood

Weed Spotter training image - Bianca Gold

Photos

Front Cover: Water hyacinth infestation undergoing treatment.

Right: Weed Spotter training session.



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Printed managed by Finsbury Green. November 2025

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State prohibited weeds

Agriculture Victoria recognises the importance of preventing the introduction of State prohibited weeds into Victoria that could cause harm to our economy, environment and lifestyle. With help from Weed Spotters, Agriculture Victoria aims to detect and eradicate any incursions from the state, should they be introduced.



What are State prohibited weeds?

State prohibited weeds are declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. They are the highest category of declaration under the Act, which reflects the threat these plants pose to our economy, environment and lifestyle.

Who are Weed Spotters?

Weed Spotters assist Agriculture Victoria by looking out for State prohibited weeds during their day-to-day activities and reporting any suspect plants to Agriculture Victoria.

Where to look for new weeds?

Weed Spotters can look for State prohibited weed species in a wide variety of environments including home gardens, restaurants, rivers and creeks, wetlands, ponds, dams, natural areas, farming areas, roadsides, cemeteries, car parks, waste places and urban fringes. They may also be found for sale in nurseries, garden centres, markets, catalogues, in the media or on the internet.

Which weeds to look for?

Weed Spotters are asked to look for and report State prohibited weeds. This does not include common and widespread weeds like Paterson's curse, blackberry, ragwort, serrated tussock, gorse or St John's wort.

What happens if a suspect State prohibited weed is found?

1. The Weed Spotter reports any suspect plants to Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or by sending an email to weed.spotters@agriculture.vic.gov.au.
2. Agriculture Victoria will then visit the site and keep the Weed Spotter informed of the outcome of their report.

Agriculture Victoria does not ask Weed Spotters to become involved in the on-ground management of State prohibited weeds. Weed Spotters play a valuable role in detecting and informing Agriculture Victoria of the location of any suspected State prohibited weeds.

For more information visit the website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/weedspotters

Agriculture Victoria Biosecurity Officer



January

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|---|
| Hawkweeds emit chemicals which inhibit the growth of nearby native plants. |  | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Australia Day | 27 | 28 First term starts | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |

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Report this weed 136 186

More about this weed:



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Water hyacinth

Eichhornia crassipes



Water hyacinth infestations have been found and treated in waterways around Melbourne and regional Victoria. Water hyacinth plants have swollen stems that are filled with air cells enabling them to float.

All leaves are bright to dark green, smooth and glossy. Stems are long and thin or round and swollen. The roots are dark purple and feathery. The flowers are mauve with six petals. The uppermost petal has a yellow dot in the centre.



| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germination | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Active growth | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flowering | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seeding | | | | | | | | | | | | |



February

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|--|--|--------|----------|--------|
| |  | <p>Water hyacinth can rapidly cover waterways, forming a dense, impenetrable mat over the water surface.</p> |  | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| World Wetland Day | | | | | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |
| National Invasive Species Awareness Week | | | | | | |

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Report this weed 136 186

More about this weed:



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March

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------|---------|---|--|---|----------|--------|
| 30 | 31 |  | Alligator weed can cause blockages of waterways, impacting on recreational activities. |  | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Labour Day | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

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Report this weed 136 186

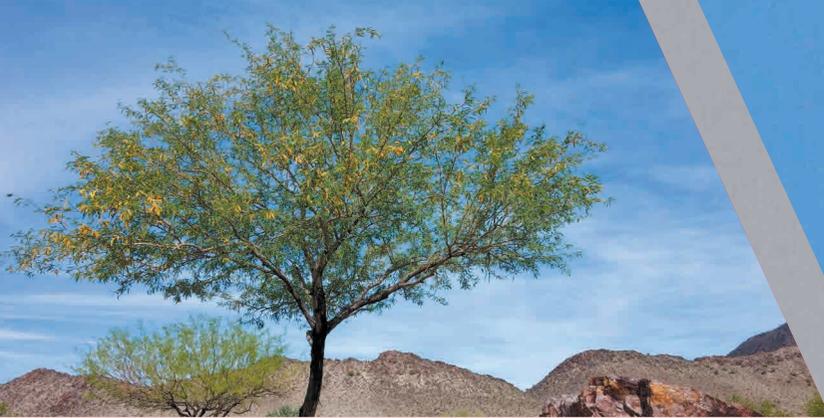
More about this weed:



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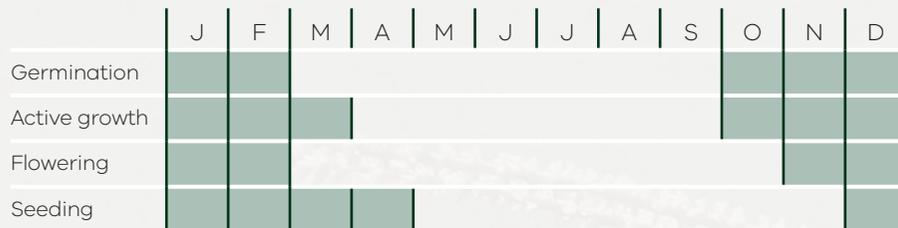
Mesquite

Prosopis species



Mesquite can grow to 15 metres in height. The stems have a zig zag appearance, with a pair of spines usually above each leaf stalk. The leaves are bright green.

Flowers are green-yellow and tightly clustered in a spike up to 12 cm long near the end of branches. Seed pods are 5-20 cm long.



April

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|----------------------|--|---|---|
| |  | 1 | 2 First term ends | 3 Good Friday | 4 Easter Saturday | 5 End of Daylight Savings at 3 am Easter Sunday |
| 6 Easter Monday | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Second term starts | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Anzac Day | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | Mesquite is an aggressive competitor which can invade agricultural land. |  | |

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Report this weed 136 186

More about this weed:



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May

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|----------|--------|----------|--------|
|  | Camel thorn roots can break through sealed bitumen roads, while sharp-tipped spines pose a danger to stock. |  | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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More about this weed:



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Horsetails

Equisetum species



Horsetail plants can spread underground into neighbouring urban properties. They can damage walls, footpaths and roads. They do not have flowers, fruits or seeds, instead they have cones and spores like ferns.

There are large and dwarf varieties of horsetails in many different forms. Some dwarf varieties die back to their underground parts during winter. Stems of large horsetail plants are hollow and easily squashed.



| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| Active growth | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Flowering | | | | | | | | NA | | | | |
| Spores released | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | ■ |



June

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|--|--|---|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 King's Birthday | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Second term ends | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | |  | Horsetails are among the world's worst agricultural weeds due to their invasiveness and ability to dominate poorly drained farmland. |  | |

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Report this weed 136 186

More about this weed:



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July

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|----------|--------|--|---|
| |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Third term starts | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Contact with parthenium weed can cause allergic reactions such as dermatitis, hayfever and asthma. |  |

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More about this weed:



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Lagarosiphon

Lagarosiphon major



Lagarosiphon is a submerged aquatic plant that grows either in soil or free floating. Stems can grow to 5.4 m long. It is most prolific in sheltered, still or slow moving waterways. It can be confused with other aquatic plants such as Elodea, Egeria and Hydrilla.

Lagarosiphon has stiff, bright green to dark green leaves that are 5-20 mm in length. Leaves are arranged in alternate spirals along the length of the stem (not grouped in whorls around the stem like similar species).



| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Growth | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Flowering | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | ■ |



August

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---|---|--|--------|----------|--------|
| 31 |  | Lagarosiphon can choke still and slow moving waterways causing fish kills and preventing recreational activities. |  | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Australian National Biosecurity Week

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Report this weed 136 186

More about this weed:



AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

September

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---------|-----------|--|---|---|------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Third term ends | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Planned AFL Grand Final Holiday | 26 | 27 World Rivers Day |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |  | Serrations along the leaf blade make the leaves feel coarse when sliding fingers down the length of the leaf. |  | |

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More about this weed:



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October

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|----------|--------|----------|--|
|  | Decaying salvinia can de-oxygenate waterways, resulting in the death of fish and other aquatic fauna. |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Start of Daylight Savings at 2 am |
| 5 Fourth term starts | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

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More about this weed:



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November

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 30 |  | Japanese knotweed is an aggressive plant that can penetrate bitumen. |  | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Melbourne Cup Day (Melbourne Metro area only) | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 National Agriculture Day | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

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More about this weed:



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Mouse-ear hawkweed

Hieracium pilosella or *Pilosella officinarum*



Mouse-ear hawkweed occurs at Falls Creek in the Victorian high country. It spreads by wind-borne seeds and by stolons. Mouse-ear hawkweed has blue-green leaves, with scattered long hairs above and downy white hairs below, arranged in a rosette close to the ground.

The stems contain milky sap, are covered in short, stiff hairs and grow up to 25 cm. The yellow flowers often have a red stripe on the underneath of the petal and are solitary, with only one flower per stem.



| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germination | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Active growth | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flowering | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seeding | | | | | | | | | | | | |



December

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Fourth term ends | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Boxing Day | 27 |
| 28 Boxing Day (Public Holiday) | 29 | 30 | 31 | Hawkweed can be extremely invasive, out-competing native plants and disturbing ecosystems, particularly in alpine areas. |  |  |

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