

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a dense patch of horsetails and knotweeds. The horsetails have prominent, segmented green stems with dark rings. The knotweeds have broad, green, heart-shaped leaves. The image is partially covered by semi-transparent geometric shapes: a dark green triangle on the left, a dark grey semi-circle at the top, and a yellow triangle on the right.

2025
Calendar

State Prohibited Weeds

Horsetails – *Equisetum* species and Knotweed – *Fallopia* species

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: - Front Cover: Horsetails and knotweed growing in Canada.

Right: Weed Spotter training session.

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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 Officers

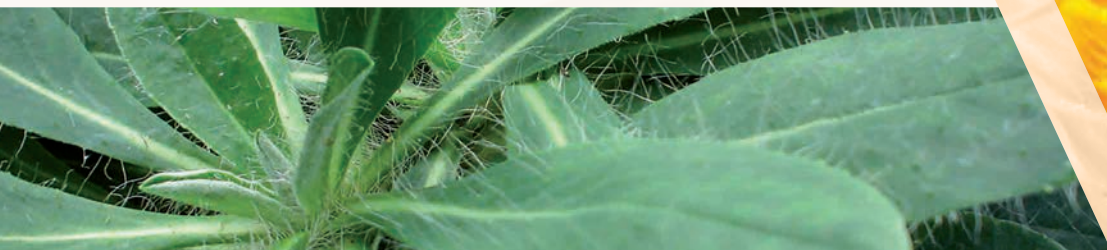
Orange hawkweed

Hieracium aurantiacum or *Pilosella aurantiaca*



Sold as an ornamental before being declared a State prohibited weed, orange hawkweed has naturalised to a limited extent in Victoria's Alps and infestations are occasionally found in home gardens.

Orange hawkweed leaves are hairy and grow in a rosette close to the ground. The stems are covered in hairs and contain a milky sap. Orange hawkweed flowers grow to 15 mm in diameter and in clusters of five or more on 20 cm stalks.



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

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		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 Australia Day (Public Holiday)	28 First term starts	29	30	31		Hawkweeds emit chemicals which inhibit the growth of nearby native plants.

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												

Report this weed 136 186

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Water hyacinth can rapidly cover waterways, forming a dense, impenetrable mat over the water surface.			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		

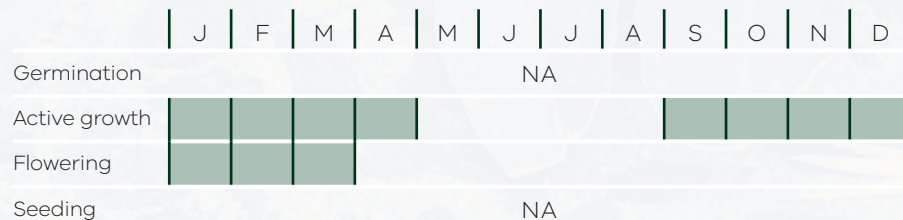
Alligator weed

Alternanthera philoxeroides





Alligator weed can grow on land or in water. It can produce new plants from plant fragments breaking off and travelling downstream, or by sending out runners to form dense mats.

Alligator weed thrives in nutrient-rich water. Plants have hollow stems, with leaves that occur in opposite pairs. Flowers form on stalks where the leaf meets the main stem.



Report this weed 136 186

March

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

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.



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

Report this weed 136 186

April

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

Camel thorn

Alhagi maurorum



Camel thorn is found in northern Victoria, usually in irrigated pastures and neglected areas. It is a rigid, much-branched, spiny shrub, commonly 25–60 cm tall. The root system can grow up to 8 m laterally, making it a strong competitor with other plants.

Above ground foliage dies in autumn and new shoots emerge from the roots in spring. Stems have numerous yellow-tipped spines. Flowers are pea-like, brown to red and purple and grow in clusters of one to eight.



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

Report this weed 136 186

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	

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												

Report this weed 136 186

June

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

Parthenium weed

Parthenium hysterophorus



Parthenium weed is currently not known to be in Victoria, but infests over 8 million hectares of land in northern Australia. Plants may die back in autumn, or can grow year round under suitable conditions. It can germinate and seed within a four week period and produce up to 100,000 seeds.



It grows up to 2 metres in height, produces numerous small white, star-shaped flowers and has lateral grooves along the stems. The leaves are grey-green, deeply divided, 5-20 cm long and covered in fine hairs.



	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Germination												
Flowering												
Seeding												
Plant death												

Report this weed 136 186

July

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

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												

Report this weed 136 186

August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		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	31

Mexican feather grass

Nassella tenuissima



Mexican feather grass is an invasive agricultural plant that is believed to be in a number of Melbourne gardens, however no naturalised infestations are known to exist in regional Victoria.

Mexican feather grass can grow up to 70 cm tall. Leaves are thin and tightly rolled. Mature flower heads have a fluffy or feathery appearance. Seeds have a small pointed tip and a long bent tail.



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

Report this weed 136 186

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	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30			Serrations along the leaf blade make the leaves feel coarse when sliding fingers down the length of the leaf.		

Salvinia

Salvinia molesta



Salvinia is a small, fleshy, aquatic plant that grows on the surface of the water. The leaves are oval shaped and covered in waxy hairs, making their upper surface water repellent.


Submerged leaves act and look like roots, with short brown hairy stalks, ending in hairy filaments up to 50 cm long. Crowded plants will become bunched up, oblong in shape and look like open clam shells.



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

Report this weed 136 186

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5 Start of Daylight Savings at 2 am
6 Fourth term starts	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		Decaying salvinia can de-oxygenate waterways, resulting in the death of fish and other aquatic fauna.

Knotweeds

Fallopia japonica, *Fallopia sachalinensis*, *Fallopia x bohemica*



Knotweeds are fast growing, semi-woody perennials, that form dense, leafy thickets. Knotweed stems are hollow, grow in a zig-zag shape and become tough and woody with age.

New stems may be purple-red in colour. Japanese knotweed leaves have a flat leaf base, while giant knotweed leaves have a heart-shaped leaf base.



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

Report this weed 136 186

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Japanese knotweed is an aggressive plant that can penetrate bitumen.			1	2
3	4 Melbourne Cup Day (Melbourne Metro area only)	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

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												

Report this weed 136 186



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	19 Fourth term ends	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30	31		Hawkweed can be extremely invasive, out-competing native plants and disturbing ecosystems, particularly in alpine areas.		



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