

Weed map

A simple hand drawn map will assist in determining management priorities for control and eradication. Your map should include the:

- Location of weed infestations.
- Density of infestations (e.g. dense, well established or scattered).
- Location of clean (weed free) areas.
- Natural variations (slope, waterways, flooding).
- Infrastructure (fences, driveways).
- Land use (including paddocks).

An aerial photo/satellite image can provide an accurate representation of the property.



Surveying

Surveying and monitoring will help to prevent weed establishment and spread through early detection. It will also provide the basis for your map.

- Start at the edge of the site and walk/drive across it at regular, parallel intervals. The intervals may be 10 – 50m.
- If weeds occur in discrete clumps, mark their locations on the map.
- Where a weed species dominates, mark the infestation boundaries on the map.
- Use a GPS if you have one.

Photo points

Photo points provide an excellent way of documenting weed control efforts. Photos taken from the same place and at the same time each year will enable comparisons to be made.

- Mark the location of each photo point with a star picket.
- Take the photo at the same height each time.
- Record the location and date of each photo.
- Take photos regularly to reflect changes in vegetation.
- Take photos before and after control to determine success.



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WEED PLAN

A weed planning guide for properties

In the Northern Territory the spread of weeds has led to changes in natural ecosystems. These changes have reduced the diversity and abundance of native plants and animals.

Weed establishment also threatens the sustainable use of land and water resources.

The long term protection of the Territory's natural resources is dependant on all land managers undertaking an active role in weed management. This guide provides advice on how to plan for efficient and cost effective weed control on your property.

Why plan?

Successful weed management may require a significant investment of resources over a long period of time. Planning is vital to ensure that time and money invested actually contributes towards long term goals on your property.

Plans help land managers to determine the most appropriate management actions and ensure they are implemented at the most appropriate times. Management actions can then be prioritised, taking into account potential for spread and susceptibility to weed establishment. Spread prevention is always the most successful and cheapest way of managing weeds. Planning will help you keep weeds out of clean areas and identify and protect areas of high importance.

Regular monitoring and plan review are key elements of any weed management program. Reinfestation or establishment may only be one growing season away if vigilance is not maintained.

A good property weed plan will help to assess, prioritise the control of and monitor weeds impacting your property. This guide leads you through a number of steps that will assist you to develop your own plan.



STEP 1

Assess your situation

What are your:

- Priority control areas?
- High risk areas for weed spread?
- Significant seed sources?
- Clean and valuable areas?
- Options for co-ordinating weed control with neighbours?

Refer to statutory weed species plans and management guides for further information



STEP 2

Develop your plan

- Draw a property map
- Identify isolated plants and outbreaks for eradication
- Identify major infestations for containment
- Determine necessary buffer zones
- Develop a weed control calendar taking into account weed growth and reproductive cycles
- Design a weed spread prevention program
- Cost all planned control works, including follow up



STEP 4

Monitor and review

- Regularly conduct surveys to detect new and re-establishing weeds
- Record/photograph control results (success and failure)
- Document costs and resources
- Review your plan



STEP 3

Implement your plan

- Undertake integrated weed control activities
- Physical
 - Chemical
 - Grazing
 - Fire
 - Biocontrol
- Complement with good land management techniques to avoid weed germination and spread



• Prioritise control of plants which increase risk of spread

• Establish a property wash down point (regularly monitor and control weeds)

• Develop hygiene protocols

• Establish buffer zones

• Determine appropriate stocking rates

• Limit seed production

• Eradicate gamba plants outside the fence line

• Control plants upstream first

• Rehabilitate as necessary

• Keep clean (weed free) areas clean

• Control isolated infestations before tackling big ones

Gamba spreading into clean country

Unmanaged gamba paddock

Gamba spreading along tracks and driveway

Vehicles spreading weed seeds

Bellyache bush spreading down the creek