

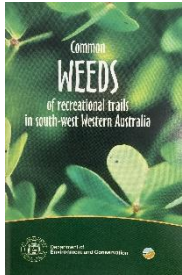
Track Maintenance Know-How

Weeds on the Bibbulmun Track

“Weeds are plants growing beyond their natural range that adversely affect natural values. Weeds are also known as invasive plants. Many plants introduced into Australia in the past 200 years are now weeds.”¹

Some areas of the Bibbulmun Track suffer weed invasion. Weeds often occur around towns, near farms or along water ways. Weeds can be coloniser species or compete with existing vegetation. They impact adversely on the immediate surroundings by looking out of place and potentially disturbing the local ecology.

Maintenance volunteers might want to clear weeds from the Track, but their removal requires a targeted and sustained effort to be effective.



The booklet, “Common Weeds of recreational trails in south-west Western Australia” is the best reference available; all maintenance volunteer teams should have at least one copy.

The booklet advises *“Some weeds ... can be controlled manually and this is noted for each of those weeds.”* Nine clear steps for weed removal by hand are provided and the need to report weeds to the trail manager is emphasised.

For the Bibbulmun Track, the relevant trail manager is the PaWS District office, and weeds should be reported via your usual maintenance inspection report, noting the location of the infestation and providing a photograph to maintenance@bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Unfortunately, long term weed control requires considerable resources. A senior PaWS officer recently commented that despite considerable time and effort invested by the District towards weed control in a National Park, resources ultimately had to be redirected to other priorities.

If you would like another copy of the “Common Weeds...” booklet, please contact us. It appears to have gone out of print so is not available publicly.

Thanks to Mark Davidson for drafting this sheet.

¹ Common Weeds of recreational trails in south-west Western Australia. Department of Environment and Conservation 2010