Planning for better weed management

A ‘How to’ guide for Top End 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.

This guide will assist you to assess, prioritise, control and monitor weeds impacting YOUR property.
**STEP 1**
Assess your situation

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

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

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**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

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**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.

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**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