**Common garden invaders**

**CATEGORY 1 PLANTS**
Declared weeds which should immediately be controlled include:
- Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) Western Cape only
- Hakea (Hakea diphases, H. gibboza, H. sericea)
- Red ginger lily (Hedychium cocineum)
- White ginger lily (Hedychium coronarium)
- Yellow ginger lily (Hedychium flavescens)
- Kahli ginger lily (Hedychium gardnerianum)
- Lantana species that produce seed
- Cat's claw creeper (Macfadyena unguis-cati)
- Oleander (Nerium oleander)

**CATEGORY 2 PLANTS**
Plants that can only be grown if a demarcation/permit acquired (forestation permit excluded from this regulation) include:
- Silver wattle (Acacia dealbata)
- Australian blackwood (Acacia melanoxylon)
- Port Jackson willow (Acacia saligna)
- Horsetail tree (Casuarina equisetfolia)
- Guava (Psidium guajava)
- Castor-oil plant (Ricinus communis)
- Weeping willow (Salix babylonica)

**CATEGORY 3 PLANTS**
Established plants do not require removal, if it doesn't occur closer than 30 metres to the 1-50 year floodline. The species may not be stocked by garden centres and planted and it includes:
- New Zealand Christmas tree (Metrosideros excelsa)
- Pepper wattle tree (Acacia elata)
- Pearl acacia (Acacia podalyriifolia)
- Orchid tree (Bauhinia variegata)
- Silky oak (Grevillea robusta)
- Morning glory (Ipomoea indica, I. Alba, I. purpurea)
- Syringa, Persian lilac (Melia azedarach)

For a full list of alien invasive plants, contact the Working for Water toll free information line on 0800-005-376 or visit www-dwaf.gov.za/wfw/ www.agis.agric.za/agisweb/wip

**Vision**
A country, and region, in which invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and introductions of potentially invasive alien species are prevented, in order to contribute to economic empowerment, social equity and ecological integrity.

The goals of the WW Programme are
- Ecological: improved ecological integrity of natural ecosystems through the control of invasive alien plants
- Hydrological: enhanced water security
- Agricultural: restoration and rehabilitation of degraded land in order to secure the productive potential of land
- Socio-economic: providing economic benefits and social upliftment through the control of invasive alien plants.

If we do not clear invasive alien plants...

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There is increasingly strong evidence that the costs of clearing indicated in these scenarios are accurate averages assuming the successful utilization of biological control agents (where appropriate), enhanced levels of productivity, appropriate legislation and education. There is obviously wide variability in the costs, depending upon factors such as the type of species, terrain, distance from settlements or roads, vulnerability to fire, extent of the "low-up work required, and so on.

**Without clearing, this sequence of invasion is inevitable.**
Our laws relating to invasive alien species are aimed at:
- preventing the introduction of alien species that may become invasive;
- managing species that have become invasive in the country.

The long-term threat of invasive alien species to life and livelihoods is so great, and the potential impact so significant, that far more stringent steps are now being taken. In terms of invasive alien plants, the following general conditions apply:

1. It is unlawful to bring alien species into the country without a permit to do so.
2. It is unlawful to sell certain invasive alien plants.
3. It is unlawful to have certain invasive alien plants on your property.
4. It is unlawful to grow certain invasive alien plants in sensitive areas (e.g., riverine areas, wetlands).
5. Land-users have a legal duty to remove alien invasive plants that are a fire hazard in certain areas.
6. The authorities may clear your land of invasive alien plants entirely at your cost, and at your risk.

Who is fighting the problem?
The fight against invasive alien plants is spearheaded by the Working for Water (WW) programme, launched in 1995 and administered through the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. This programme works in partnership with local communities, to whom it provides jobs, and also with Government departments including the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Agriculture, and Trade and Industry, provincial departments of agriculture, conservation and environment, research foundations and private companies.

During the 2005/06 financial year, the Working for Water programme completed 203,358 ha of initial clearing of invasive alien plants and 665,025 ha of follow-up clearing employing 29,470 people from among the most marginalized sectors of society. Of these, 52% are women.

WW currently runs over 300 projects in all nine of South Africa's provinces. Scientists and field workers use a range of methods to control invasive alien plants.

These include:
- Mechanical methods - felling, removing or burning invading alien plants.
- Chemical methods - using environmentally safe herbicides.
- Biological control - using species-specific insects and diseases from the alien plant's country of origin. To date 76 biocontrol agents have been released in South Africa against 40 weed species.
- Integrated control - combinations of the above three approaches. Often an integrated approach is required in order to prevent enormous impacts.

The Programme is globally recognised as one of the most outstanding environmental conservation initiatives on the continent. It enjoys substantial political support for its job creation efforts and the fight against poverty.