

Weeds of Trigg Bushland

Lupinus (lupins) are widely cultivated and four species are naturalised in Western Australia, often on roadsides or sandy bushland adjoining paddocks. All are annual, flower in spring and have leaves divided into a number of finger-like leaflets. *L. cosentinii* (Western Australian blue lupin) has blue flowers in whorls on a long main stalk, and 7 to 13 leaflets, up to 1.5cm wide. A widespread and serious weed of roadsides, woodlands and heath from Carnarvon to Esperance.



The genus *Pelargonium* includes all garden 'geraniums' and several garden varieties persist around old settlements. *Pelargonium capitatum* (rose pelargonium) is a straggling shrubby perennial, softly hairy, with compact heads of pink flowers. It is a common weed of beach dunes, banksia and tuart woodlands from Cervantes to Esperance. Native to South Africa. Two garden hybrids, *P.x asperum* and *P.x domesticum* are naturalised on cliffs of the Swan Estuary in Perth.

Euphorbia terracina (Geraldton carnation weed) is a smooth leaved erect perennial to 80cm tall, much branched from the base. The leaves are long and narrow, 1-4cm long and minutely toothed. The flower is at the top of the stalk, yellow-green, and produced in summer. Produces a very toxic and irritating milky sap when cut. Common and serious weed of grazing land, road verges, coastal heath and tuart woodlands from Geraldton to Esperance. Native to the Mediterranean.



from *Western Weeds, A Guide to the Weeds of Western Australia*, by Hussey, Keighery, Cousens, Dodd & Lloyd (1997) <http://members.iinet.net.au/~weeds/index.htm>

Weed Management

Hand-pull

- Hand-pulling is a relatively gentle control method for seedlings, herbs and grasses.
- Lupin and Euphorbia can be easily hand-weeded from the bush, particularly young plants that have not developed an extensive root system.
- Hand-pulling is best carried out when the soil is damp, when the root systems are more easily dislodged and less damage is done to the soil structure. Pelargonium should only be hand-pulled when the soil is soft as the roots will snap off the main stalk, and re-sprout the following year.
- Remove any seeds of fruit that are present and bag these for disposal, so
- that new plants will not grow from the seeds.
- Take hold of the plant firmly near ground level and pull. Avoid grabbing the plant too high as it is likely to break and remaining plant material may re-shoot.
- After removing the plant, tamp the disturbed soil down so that seeds from other weeds will not sprout..
- Bag all weeds and carry to the nearest path, for later collection by the City of Stirling.

Dig-out

- Dig out plants with tougher root systems, such as Pelargonium.
- Insert a trowel or fork into the soil outside the root system. Gently loosen the soil, work around the roots and then work the plant and roots out gently.
- Take great care to ensure all Pelargonium roots come out, otherwise they we will re-sprout the following year.
- Bag all weeds and carry to the nearest path, for later collection by the City of Stirling.

Weeding wand

- Weeds that cannot be hand-pulled or dug-out can be treated with a weeding wand, which is used to selectively deliver herbicide to plants that are too large to dig out. Let a Friends of Trigg Bushland member know if you think this needs to be done to a weed you cannot pull or dig out properly.

How to work

- It is important to minimise any disturbance to the ground. Do not scuff or kick the ground.
- Take care where you walk, and try not to harm native plants.
- Work slowly and methodically. Pace yourself. Relax and enjoy being in the bush!

Safety

- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, hat, stout shoes and gloves at all times.
- Ask a member of Friends of Trigg Bushland if you have any questions or are unsure about anything at all.
- Do not handle any insects, etc that you may observe.
- Drink plenty of water.