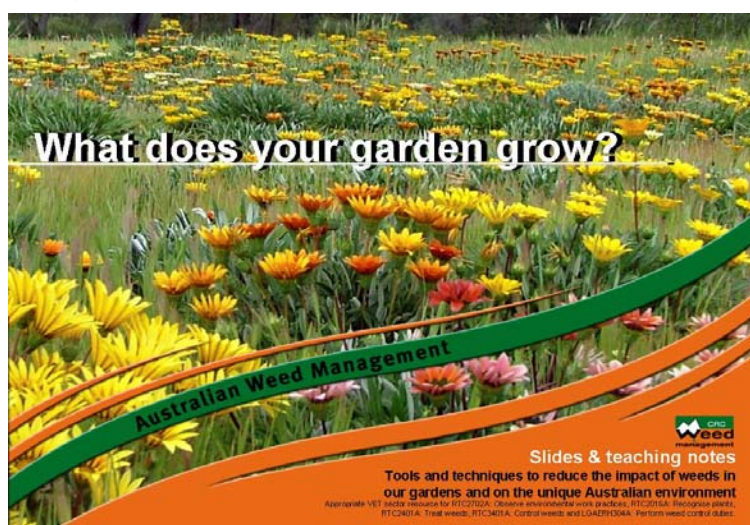


'What does your garden grow?' an education opportunity

Many home gardeners are unaware that what they grow in their gardens can impact on the environment and agriculture. It is critical that public awareness of the weed problem is lifted so that a political will and community commitment to tackle this issue is generated. 'What does your garden grow?' is a short course that aims to increase the public awareness of weed impacts on the unique Australian environment and to provide basic knowledge of how participants can deal with weeds in their gardens. Course development is a project under the Education Program of the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC), 'Task 5.2.1 Increase the Skills of Weeds Professionals'.

Figure 1. Cover design for course materials



INFORMATION RESOURCES PROVIDED

The Weeds CRC does not have the capacity to deliver this course across Australia however will provide an information resource for other trainers to utilise. This will be available free on the internet or via CD-ROM. The information resource allows for flexible delivery and can be run as a three hour session, as shorter sessions or used to supplement accredited training. Trainers will also have the opportunity to attend 'train the trainer' workshops to familiarise themselves with the course materials and delivery strategies.

There are **opportunities for partnerships** to be developed to ensure effective delivery. Successful partnerships may be formed between any combinations of the following groups:

- Community Colleges or TAFEs
- weed professionals from local and other government departments such as councils and Departments of Primary Industries.
- Catchment Management Authorities, Landcare, Bushcare or other environmental groups
- Clubs such as Garden, Lions, Rotary or Country Women's Associations and
- nurseries particularly those in the Nursery & Garden Industry Associations.

The **key course outcomes** are to:

- show participant how to manage weeds in their own garden
- show the importance of weeds in the Australian environment
- describe how weeds spread
- recognise the importance of plant identification
- consider growing less weedy plants for the benefit of the environment.

The **information resource** contains:

- 1) Participant's workbook including activities, reference material and websites.
Topics covered are:
Topic 1: What, why and where of weeds

Topic 2: When is a plant a weed?
Topic 3: What does your garden grow?
Topic 4: How can you take control?
Topic 5: Why don't you grow me instead?

- 2) PowerPoint slides for each topic show many problem weeds and their impacts with the view to encouraging participants to evaluate their garden for potential problems.
- 3) Trainer's guide with suggestions on course organization and a session plan.
- 4) Factsheets on 'Managing garden weeds' providing control tactics for weeds with
 - bulbs, corms and tubers
 - large seed and fruit
 - wind dispersed seeds and
 - creeping plants.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

The 'What does your garden grow?' information resource:

- is a means for weed professionals to lift community awareness on impact of weeds in the Australian environment
- provides participants with the knowledge to make a difference
- will be available from the Weeds CRC, by contacting Annette Beer in Wagga from August 2007.

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