

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 12



Undesirable Animals and Plants

What is the Wet Tropics Management Plan about?

The Plan commenced on 1 September 1998 and was designed to help protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Plan regulates only those activities that have the potential to adversely affect the natural or cultural values of the World Heritage Area¹. The activities of most concern are the destruction of native vegetation, and the disturbance of earth or watercourses.

What is an undesirable animal or plant?

Undesirable animals and plants are listed in a schedule to the Plan (see next page). They are generally introduced species which become established in natural ecosystems changing the habitat and threatening native biodiversity.

Why does the Plan regulate undesirable animals and plants?

Pest animals can compete with, prey upon or disrupt the breeding success of native wildlife as well as spreading diseases or parasites. Environmental weeds are capable of establishing self-sustaining populations by invading native ecosystems and causing major modifications to natural vegetation communities. They include shade tolerant plants and other plants which can quickly colonise and establish especially in disturbed sites.

Am I allowed to keep my dog and cat?

If your land contains rainforest the Authority will be seeking your cooperation to prevent domestic pets from entering the rainforest. A permit is not required to keep domestic animals on private land in areas not containing rainforest, nor is a permit needed for transporting animals through the Area as long as they are suitably constrained to prevent them from straying or escaping.

Can I grow non-native plants in my garden?

If your garden is separated from rain forested areas and your gardening practices preclude any opportunity for potential environmental weeds to escape, many exotic plants would not pose any threat. However by their very nature environmental weeds have great propensity to reproduce in profusion and it is for this reason that the plants listed as undesirable may not be cultivated within the Area. It would also be desirable that other non-native plants which have weedy characteristics² are not cultivated in the Area.

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¹The natural values for which the Wet Tropics Area was listed as of World Heritage significance include evidence of major stages of the earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, superlative natural phenomena or areas of natural beauty, and important habitats for conserving biodiversity. The Area's cultural values are also considered in determining appropriate management.

² Often shade tolerant ornamentals, no special germination requirements, long lived wind-dispersed seeds, large and continuous seed crops, rapid seedling growth, vigorous vegetative reproduction, pioneers with adaptations to rapidly colonise disturbances.

Undesirable Animals and Plants cont'd

Evolutionary isolated biological systems which characterise the Wet Tropics are especially vulnerable to biological invasions. Restricted endemic species are particularly vulnerable to extinction through disease, competition, habitat modification or predation from introduced species.

PART 1—UNDESIRABLE PLANTS

Species	Common name	Species	Common Name
all non-native species of acanthaceae family		<i>Panicum maximum</i>	guinea grass
<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	allamanda	<i>Passiflora spp (exotics)</i>	passion fruits or flowers
<i>Annona glabra</i>	pond apple	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	elephant grass
<i>Bambusa spp</i>	bamboo	<i>Perilepta dyeriana</i>	perilepta
<i>Brachiaria mutica</i>	para grass (ponded pasture)	<i>Pinus caribaea</i>	caribbean pine
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	cabomba (aquatic weed)	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guava
<i>Calopogonium mucunoides</i>	calopo (pasture legume)	<i>Pueraria phaseoloides</i>	puero (pasture legume)
<i>Centrosema pubescens</i>	centro (pasture legume)	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	salvinia or water fern
<i>Chuckrasia velutina</i>	East Indian mahogany	<i>Samanea saman</i>	raintree
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	camphor laurel	<i>Sanchezia parvibracteata</i>	sanchezia
<i>Clitoria laurifolia</i>	clitoria	<i>Sansevieria spp</i>	mother-in-law's tongue
<i>Coffea arabica</i>	coffee	<i>Selaginella willdenovii</i>	peacock fern
<i>Duranta repens</i>	golden dewdrops or sky flower	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	African tulip tree
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water hyacinth	<i>Stephanophysum longifolium</i>	stephanophysum
<i>Glycine spp</i>	glycine	<i>Thaumastochloa danielii</i>	prayer plant
<i>Harungana madagascariensis</i>	harungana	<i>Thunbergia alata</i>	black-eyed susan
<i>Hemigraphis colorata</i>	hemigraphis	<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>	blue thunbergia
<i>Ipomoea spp</i>	morning glory	<i>Thunbergia laurifolia</i>	laurel clock vine
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	<i>Tithonia diversifolia</i>	Japanese sunflower
<i>Ligustrum spp</i>	privet	<i>Tradescantia spp</i>	wandering jew
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	molasses grass	<i>Turbina corymbosa</i>	turbina
<i>Miconia calvescens</i>	miconia	<i>Wedelia tricornuta</i>	Singapore daisy
<i>Momordica charantia</i>	balsam pear	<i>Zebrina spp</i>	wandering jew
<i>Montanoa hibiscifolia</i>	anzac flower		

PART 2—UNDESIRABLE ANIMALS

Species	Common name	Species	Common name
all species cichlid		<i>Cervus timorensis</i>	rusa deer
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	European honey bee	<i>Dama dama</i>	fallow deer
<i>Axis axis</i>	chital deer	<i>Felis catus</i>	cat
<i>Bos indicus</i>	zebu cattle	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	mosquito fish
<i>Bos taurus</i>	European cattle	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	rabbit
<i>Bubalis bubalis</i>	water buffalo	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	guppy
<i>Bufo marinus</i>	cane toad	<i>Pontoscolex corethrurus</i>	exotic earthworm
<i>Canus familiaris</i>	dog	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	pig
<i>Capra hircus</i>	goat	<i>Tilapia mariae</i>	tilapia
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	red deer	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	fox