

5.5 In the Rainforest

Travel to a nearby patch of rainforest. The scene before you is probably awash with bright green hues and chocolate browns. Now look closely at the plants around you. Do they look like they belong in the rainforest? Are there any plants you see that you might have growing at home? As you know, feral species, or weeds, cause havoc in the Wet Tropics.

One way we can control this problem is by having concerned citizens (you?) learn to identify common weeds in the Wet Tropics. Then you can go home and see if your household is perhaps contributing to this problem.

Download the Weed Pocket Guide http://www.wettropics.gov.au/mwha/mwha_weeds.html from the Wet Tropics web site. Create a transect line of approximately 100 metres. A transect is a path along which you record or count the occurrences of something.

Count the number of weeds you find along your transect as identified in the Weed Pocket Guide. Fill in the table below:

Name of Weed Species	Number found	How does the weed spread (refer to <i>Weed Pocket Guide</i>)
eg Camphor laurel	2	Animals, birds, humans, water

Please don't remove any weeds you've identified in the Wet Tropics rainforest. It's more important that you remove weeds from your home garden!

