

Pasture recovery

The risk of weed invasion dramatically increases during and after bushfires. Many weeds will quickly colonise bare areas after fire events, and it is vital to control them before they set seed and spread further or become established.

MANAGING WEEDS AFTER A FIRE

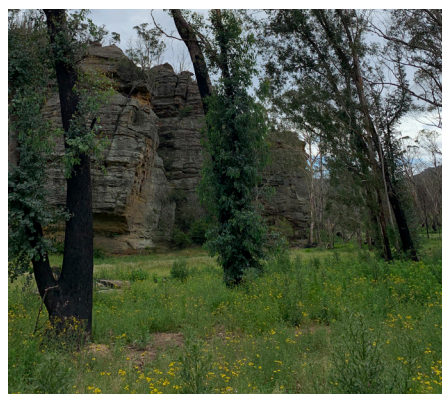
Weeds quickly re-establish after fires, often germinating more quickly than native species, in particular Blackberry and St Johns Wort. However, these conditions can also offer an ideal time to tackle weed infestations such as stands of blackberries, which are much easier to control when reduced to smaller re-shooting plants. It is also an opportunity to control regenerating weeds before they set seed again. Certain perennial weeds such as Serrated Tussock and Coolatai Grass will survive even in hot burns, while Paterson's Curse, Fireweed and Capeweed can out-compete pasture species, as fires can stimulate these seeds to germinate.

WHY IS WEED MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT?

Post-fire weed management is important as weeds can easily spread and interfere with the regeneration of desired ground-cover. Whilst most native plants and pastures can survive a bushfire, the presence of weeds will compete for water, soil and nutrients in the soil.

It is imperative that weed management commences as soon as possible after a major disturbance such as fire. Identification of weeds as they appear is critical before they re-establish.

The re-establishment of native bushland is critical and the use of local provenance seed or tubestock should be considered to maintain the integrity of the bushland.



HOW TO MANAGE WEEDS AFTER A FIRE

Successful weed control, whether following a fire event or otherwise requires continual follow-up and monitoring. This means looking for and killing regrowth or new seedlings.



1. Identify the weed species regenerating post-fire

Ensure identification of target weeds from similar looking native species. Use resources like NSW WeedWise or contact local council weed officers and Local Land Services staff for identification help and advice on managing these weeds.



2. Select priority weeds for controlling post-fire

The control of weeds should be prioritised based on the invasiveness of the weed identified, the condition of the bushland or pasture before the fire and the size of the weed area. Manageable patches of regional priority weeds in good quality bushland or pasture should be the first to tackle.



3. Use the most effective methods to control priority weeds

Timing of control along with the use of herbicides and other techniques are critical to the success of any post-fire weed control activities.

WHERE TO GET HELP

- NSW WeedWise app;



- Mid-Western Regional Council (02) 6378 2850;
- Upper Macquarie County Council (02) 6338 2875;
- LLS Staff (Marita Sydes or Clare Edwards) 1300 795 299

RESPONSIBILITY

For land owners under the Biosecurity Act 2015, you have a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) where you are expected to, within reason know about any weeds which may impact your land. Owners should have a plan of management in place to reduce, minimise or eliminate the risk posed by weeds on your property.

Council is responsible for enforcing the Biosecurity Act 2015 and its regulations. This includes fines for failure to comply with GBD.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au, or the NSW DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and search 'weeds'. Council's Weeds Team are available to assist on 6378 2939 or at weeds.admin@midwestern.nsw.gov.au.

DISCLAIMER | The information contained in this fact sheet is general in nature and should not be relied upon as the complete source of information to be considered. This document is not intended as a substitute for consulting relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.

References: NSW DPI