

WEED of the MONTH

Agapanthus (*Agapanthus* spp)

Originally from South Africa, *Agapanthus* is an erect perennial evergreen herb with a stout underground rhizome with clusters of 20-40 blue, purple or white showy flowers held together on top of a flowering stem.



Agapanthus is not officially designated as a weed, but it can quickly take over and displace indigenous grasses and ground-covers in the temperate regions of southern Australia. Established plantings can spread via underground vegetative suckering of rhizomes.

It's a very popular for it's long lasting flowers and bright green masses of leaves. It tolerates a wide range of conditions from damp to very dry and is a reliable decorative garden plant.



The rhizomes clump together and crowd out other vegetation. Old established plants are very difficult to remove for this reason requiring deep digging to remove all traces of material.

However, *Agapanthus* invades gardens, bushland, roadside areas, and pastures.

Initial spread is normally by dumping of seed or garden material. Seed heads should be removed, bagged up and disposed of properly.



Eden Landcare meet regularly for weeding bees mostly held around the edges of Curalo Lake. New members are welcome to join.

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Another invasive lily on the south coast is the **Formosan (or Taiwan) Lily** *Latin name: Lilium formosanum*. Found growing along the roadside it spreads from papery wind blown seeds produced in their hundreds.



See 'Plant of the Month' for ideas of what to plant instead.