

WEED of the MONTH

African Daisy, Winged groundsel, *Senecio pterophorus*

This perennial weed is relatively new to the Eden area. It has spread widely since the 2020 fires and can be found along waterways, beaches and under trees. It even germinates through lawns.



Mass germination

The clusters of yellow daisy-like flowers form masses of wind borne seeds.

African daisy seems to thrive in both drought and in wet conditions out-competing most native plants. It can reach up to 1.5 metres in height.



Daisy-like flowers

It can be identified by the leaf which is broadly toothed with a white woolly underside and dark glossy surface. The stem has winged edges along its length.



White underside of leaf

African daisy is easily confused with the native fireweed groundsel *Senecio linearifolius*, which has narrower leaves and no wings along the stem.



Native fireweed groundsel

Removal of the weed is best carried out by hand. It's recommended to wear gloves when pulling it up as it contains toxic alkaloids. Older plants can be shifted by using a small mattock or hoe.

Mature plants may persist for 7 to 10 years and produce approximately 50,000 seeds annually, with up to 80% of seeds germinating in autumn. Plants can be piled up to encourage rotting down and seed heads should be bagged to prevent spread.

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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