



Managing weed waste

Landcare Fact Sheet No.4

Although sending removed weeds to the rubbish tip may seem like the easiest option, there are many benefits to managing weed waste on site. Benefits include:

- Weed waste can provide habitat for wildlife while it is breaking down and native plants are regenerating.
- As weed waste breaks down, it returns nutrients back to the site that can aid regrowth / planted natives.
- Weed waste can act as a mulch, protecting soil from erosion and drying out, which acts like a 'refuge' for roots of nearby plants.
- It can provide a windbreak for establishing plants.
- On-site management reduces green-waste disposal costs and the risks associated with transporting weeds (e.g. risk of spreading weeds).
- On-site management can be more environmentally-friendly, with reduced carbon emissions compared to taking green-waste to the tip.



Above: A new planting benefiting from the mulch dead Lantana provides.

To provide these benefits, it has to be the 'right' type of weed waste and managed appropriately. So how do you know what to send to the tip and what to use on site?

Generally, most parts of most weeds are safe to be left on site although some waste is best rafted or piled so that it is not in direct contact with the ground.

Weed waste that contains seeds / fruits is generally best removed from site and binned but which bin (green or red) depends on the type of weed.

Generally, common garden weeds can go in your green bin. If your property/site has an infestation of declared priority weeds in Lake Macquarie, Council asks you contact our Biosecurity Officer for further advice on disposal. For further information on 'priority weeds' in the Hunter Region, refer to the [Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan](#) or contact Council's Biosecurity Officer. Weeds and their seeding parts that should be disposed of in your garbage bin (red bin) includes noxious or declared 'priority weeds', such as Madeira Vine, Mother of Millions and varieties of Asparagus Fern.

Sometimes, if garden weed seeds are very fine, these are best bagged and placed in the red bin so that they don't blow away as the bin is emptied (but remember not to put plastic bags in the green bin).

The table on the next page will assist you with deciding how to manage weed waste for common weeds on Landcare sites.

Remember Weed management is often very specific to different sites and may be influenced by physical aspects such as site moisture and other aspects such as public perception and available budgets. The advice provided here is only general in nature and site specific advice should always take preference. If you are concerned about how to manage weeds and their waste on your site contact the LRC on 4921 0392. For further information on declared priority weeds visit www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Weed name	What to leave on site	What to put in Green bin (organics)	What to put in Red bin (general waste)
Woody Weeds			
African Olive Bitou Bush	Non - seeding parts (leave entire plant onsite if removal of seeds unfeasible). For Bitou - Keep larger pieces off sandy ground by rafting*		Seeding parts (if achievable)
Ochna (Mickey Mouse) Indian Hawthorn	Non - seeding parts	Any seeding parts	
Castor Oil Plant Wild Tobacco	Non - seeding parts	Any seeding parts	
Green Cestrum Senna (Cassia)	Non - seeding parts (keep roots off ground/raft*)	Any seeding parts	
Lantana Golden Wreath Wattle	Entire plant – Lift large pieces of ground (Raft*) and stack out branches in contained areas to reduce allelopathic effects (chemicals that prevent other plant growth)	Seeding parts (if achievable)	
Privet (broad & small leaf) Camphor Laurel	Entire plant - Young Small-leaf privets should be dug out and the plants placed upside-down to dry out the roots	Seeding parts (if achievable)	
Vines and Scramblers			
Asparagus Ferns including Ground Asparagus and Climbing Asparagus	Non - seeding parts (you can leave non-fruiting foliage and roots on site)		Seeding parts (ripe berries) and crowns
Bridal Creeper	Non - seeding parts - Leave vine intact to avoid canopy damage. Remove tubers		Seeding parts, underground tubers
Madeira Vine	Remove as much plant material as possible but do not pull vines from canopy to avoid canopy damage		Dispose of tubers, leaves and stems (best to bag material)
Moth Vine	Non - seeding parts - Remove all fruit. Leave vine intact to avoid canopy damage.		Seeding parts (bag so fine seeds aren't blown as bin emptied)
Turkey Rubarb	Non - seeding parts - Remove tubers or leave in ground if sprayed by LRC		Tubers, Seeding parts (bag so fine seeds aren't blown away)
Cape Ivy	Non - seeding parts - but raft* as plant sections can regrow.	Any seeding parts	
Morning Glory (Blue & Costal) English Ivy Balloon Vine Japanese Honeysuckle Black-eyed Susan	Non - seeding parts - Roll up and hang or lift off ground. Leave vines intact to avoid canopy damage.	Any seeding parts (if achievable)	
Herbaceous, /ground weeds			
Crofton Weed	Non - seeding parts - Raft*	Any seeding and flowering parts	
Formosa Lilly	Non - seeding parts (stem only)		Onion/rhizome, Bag seeding parts to ensure seeds aren't blown away.
Mother of Millions			All plant parts. Bag so small seeds/ parts aren't blown as bin emptied.
Trad (Wandering Jew)	Whole plant - Roll up in black plastic in sun to sweat it		
Watsonia	Foliage	Bulbs/ Corms and bulbils (from stems)	
Grasses			
Buffalo Grass and Kikuyu Grass Guinea and Rhodes Grass Palm Grass Paspalum	Non - seeding parts - Keep off damp ground/ raft*	Seeding parts	
Pampas Grass	Non - seeding parts but monitor for regrowth		Seeding parts (bag so fine seeds aren't blown as bin emptied)

*Rafting involves placing the material in small piles off the ground on top of dead material such as sticks or bark. Rafting prevents the stems coming in contact with bare soil and regenerating. Small piles of weed waste can provide great habitat and are sometimes called 'Habbe Stacks'.

For weeds not included in this table, including Corky Passionfruit, Crucifix Orchid, Wild Tobacco, Palms, Coral Tree, Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Bamboo, Fishbone Fern, Prickly Pear and Blackberry, please refer to your site's Agreed Action Plan or specific advice from Landcare staff. There may be hazards associated with the removal of some weeds and specific advice for these should always be sought.



Lake Macquarie Landcare

Cnr Toronto and Five Islands Rds, Teralba, NSW 2284

Postal Address: Box 1906 HRMC NSW 2310

Phone: (02) 4921 0392, Email: lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

www.lakemacquarielandcare.org

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