



MEDIA RELEASE

Plan Your Attack this Weed Season

As the wet season approaches, rural block owners in Katherine are being urged to begin planning their attack on weeds.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts District Weeds Officer Gary Hillen said planning and implementing an early control program is the best way to combat weeds.

“Weeds impact on the whole community and I urge Katherine rural block owners to plan their weed attack now, Mr Hillen said.

“People should ensure they know what weeds are present in their area, that their spray equipment is in working order and they have appropriate herbicides at hand.

“It is important to start early as young growing plants use less chemical and this will keep the cost down.

“One tip is to get in early before the heavy rains begin to fall and start at the top of your property and work your way down.

“Depending on the area, you may need to revegetate with grass to cover bare ground and reduce the opportunity for weeds to grow.

“Don’t forget that prevention is cheaper than treatment, and if you only have a small weed problem you should act now before it gets out of hand.”

Mr Hillen said that weed management officers will be monitoring weed control in the Katherine district during the wet season to ensure people meet their obligations under the Northern Territory *Weeds Management Act 2001*.

“Most landowners do the right thing but get upset about their neighbours who don’t control their weeds,” Mr Hillen said.

“We usually receive a number of enquiries over the wet season from people who ‘dob’ in their neighbours.

“We usually find that the neighbours just need some help to get started with weed identification, control techniques or the best way to go about it.

“At other times it may be due to an absentee landholder so we then follow up by contacting them to remind them about their obligations.”

Mr Hillen said block owners need to be able to identify the many noxious weeds that occur in the Katherine district, including hyptis, sida, sicklepod, devil’s claw, chinee apple, lantana, bellyache bush, barleria, rubberbush and ornamental rubbervine.

“Katherine Weed Management Officers have a number of control, planning and weed identification publications that are available at no cost,” he said.

“Katherine residents should keep an eye out for the free 2007 NRETA Weeds Calendar which will be available soon.

“The 2007 Weeds Calendar is currently being developed by Weed Management Staff and will be available just before the New Year.

“The theme for this year’s calendar focuses on planning for weed management on your property with a number of control methods suggested for particular weeds throughout the year.

“Weed species on the calendar represent all regions within the Northern Territory including Weeds of National Significance.

“Copies of the calendar will be made available from our regional weeds offices in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.”

People with queries regarding control methods and weed identification are asked to contact Gary Hillen on 89738123, Steele Davies on 8973 8107, or to call into the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts office in the Randazzo Arcade.

Ends

Media Note _ For more information contact Gary Hillen on 8973 8123.

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