

# *The introduced flora of Australia and its weed status*

## How to use this book

### Interpretation of the information

Every introduced plant species in Australia, past and present, is listed in this publication. The information about plants coded as weedy in this document comes from published lists of weedy plants throughout the world. The references used for each plant can be checked in the recently updated *A global compendium of weeds* at: <http://www.hear.org/gcw/>.

For any plant species, if there are no weed categories printed after the Family name, then that particular species is **not known to be weedy anywhere in the world**, nor is it recorded as naturalised (established self-sown populations) anywhere in Australia. It is therefore unlikely to become a problem here, and **can be safely used** in landscaping and gardens.

For information on where the plant was listed as a weed, check references associated with that plant in the *A global compendium of weeds*. **No attempt has been made to check the basis on which plants have been listed as weeds** in the various publications searched, though the plant names used have been checked and cross-referenced. There is **no implication that a Weed Risk Assessment or Impact Assessment** has been done.

Species with just the 'weed' designator or only one weed category after the Family name are probably **only a minor weed**, are not at present weedy in Australia and may never become so. On the other hand, if there is a **full range of weed categories** after the name of the plant species this means that this plant has been listed as a serious weed in multiple publications worldwide. Therefore, even if not yet a weed problem in Australia, there is a **very significant risk** that this plant may become weedy if planted widely or close to natural bushland.

The usage of different plant names changes with time and in different countries. Current names and synonyms were necessarily determined from numerous sources (see list below). The Australian Plant Name Index gives a complete list of all plant species found in Australia with the current scientific names and can be used to clarify any problems with synonyms and misapplied names. It will of course be of little use if the plant in question is wrongly identified.

### Disclaimer

Even where a plant is listed as weedy in Australia, this does not necessarily mean that there are any legal restrictions on planting or sale in any region of Australia. For information on the legal status of plants in Australia, visit: <http://www.weeds.gov.au/> or <http://www.weeds.org.au/>.

### The codes

To aid people in making informed decisions about the use of a plant, its weed potential in Australia is provided as a series of shorthand codes at the end of each entry.

Species are listed in alphabetical order by genus, then species with the author citation, next followed by the family the species belongs to. The codes for that species' weed status, if any data exists, are on the line after the family name.

All plants listed in this text have been introduced into Australia with the exception of the 606 natives that are known to have naturalised outside their native range within Australia.

## The codes used in the text are:

**Weed:** There is a published reference to this plant as a weed somewhere in the world.

**N:** This plant has naturalised somewhere in Australia.

**Nn:** This plant is an Australian native species that has naturalised beyond its native range within Australia.

**1:** This plant has been recorded as a weed of the natural environment.

**2:** This plant has been recorded to escape from cultivation.

**3:** This plant has been recorded as a weed of agriculture.

**4:** This plant has been recorded as a noxious (declared) weed. This is a legal category and may take the form of a prohibition on entry, sale and movement to requirements to eradicate or control.

**5:** This plant has been recorded as an invasive species. This is the most serious criterion that can be applied to a plant and is generally used for serious high impact environmental and / or agricultural weeds that spread rapidly and often create monocultures.

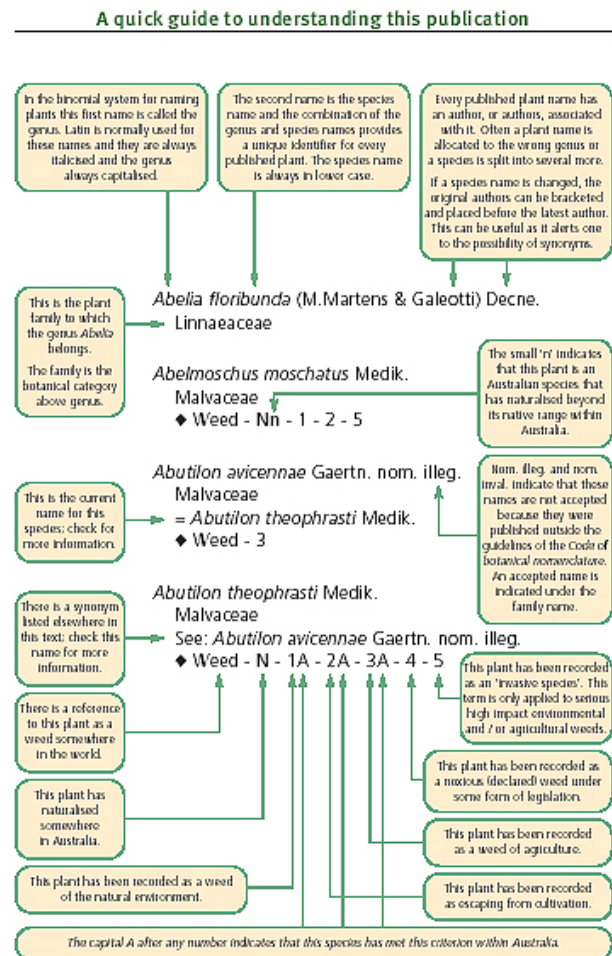
**A:** The capital A after any of the preceding numbers indicates that this species has met this criterion in Australia.

Obviously plants with a full range of the code numbers after their name, even if they have not yet become weed problems in Australia, are only an opportunity away from doing so. These species should never be cultivated under any circumstances. There are always other options available no matter how focused one may be on 'that' species.

Species with only one number or just the 'weed' designator could be used after investigation into where and how they are considered weedy. It may well be that many of these species will never become weeds in Australia but, just as growers would look at the agronomic implications of growing a plant, so too they should consider its weed potential.

Just because a plant is listed in this book as weedy elsewhere does not mean it will become a weed in Australia. Users need to consider where the plant is native to, its preferred climate including annual rainfall, soil type, and the ecosystems in which it is found.

Unfortunately Australia is a big country and most climate and soil types exist here. This needs to be taken into account with any plants that are to be sold widely across the country. On the flip side our natives are tough, aggressive and able to thrive under conditions many species



For a full view of this 'quick guide' table see page 11 in the 'Introduced flora' publication at:

[http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/weed\\_management/intro\\_flora.html](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/weed_management/intro_flora.html)

find too difficult. This is probably why Australian natives are rapidly naturalising all over the world and creating havoc in various ecosystems on every continent on the planet.

Used wisely and in conjunction with further research this text should assist people in avoiding potential costly mistakes that could impact on the environment. These mistakes may not become immediately evident in any one lifetime but good choices made now will rarely be as controversial, or as obvious, as the bad ones.

**Note:** Not all the known synonyms are included in this text, as this would have required a huge additional index and internal referencing. The synonyms included are those used in the sources from which the base dataset was composed.

### **Main sources used to determine nomenclature:**

APNI (2005) Australian Plant Name Index, a product of the Integrated Botanical Information System (IBIS), Australian National Botanic Gardens, Australian National Herbarium URL: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/apni>

ING (2005) Index Nominum Genericorum. U.S. National Herbarium, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution URL: <http://ravenel.si.edu/botany/ing/ingForm.cfm>

IPNI (2004). The International Plant Names Index. URL: <http://www.ipni.org>

W3TROPICOS (2005) VAScular Tropicos Nomenclatural Database. Missouri Botanical Garden. URL: <http://robot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html>