**JAEI ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER**

**Are YOU harbouring an alien?**

***Second week of October is National “Weedbuster” Week***

….. Where do you come from? I’m **NOT** pleased to meet you! ….

A “weed” is defined as a plant that is growing in the wrong place, it’s really the same with invader species, except you **REALLY DON’T** want them in your garden!!! So, what’s the problem?

Invader species are species that have landed up on our doorstep from some other country/region, but instead of just “looking pretty”, they have made themselves most unwelcome. Because these invader species do not arrive here accompanied by all their natural enemies, they quickly out-compete and take over from our natural flora and negatively impact our biodiversity … and they are normally a very thirsty bunch as well! These negative impacts call for concerted action for the control of these invasive alien plants.

Invasive species (*yes, there aren’t only plants that are invading our pad!* ….) are controlled by the *National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act* (NEMBA) (Act 10 of 2004) – Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) regulations, which was gazetted on 1 August 2014 and became law on 1 October 2014.

To download a copy of the Act, visit <https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/nemba10of2004_alienandinvasive_speciesregulations.pdf>

In South Africa, the regulation lists a total of 559 alien species as invasive and further 560 species are listed as prohibited and may not be introduced into South Africa. We need to all join hands and together make a determined effort to control these invaders. We all can make a big difference as the sources of infestations are often in our gardens.

Here is a brief explanation of the four categories of Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs) as per ***NEMBA***.

**Category 1a:**

Invasive species requiring compulsory control. Remove and destroy. Any specimens of Category 1a listed species need, by law, to be eradicated from the environment. No permits will be issued. - e.g. *Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Flag Iris); *Hydrocleys nymphoides* (Water poppy)

**Category 1b:**

Invasive species requiring compulsory control as part of an invasive species control programme. Remove and destroy. These plants are deemed to have such a high invasive potential that infestations can qualify to be placed under a government sponsored invasive species management programme. No permits will be issued. - e.g. *Solanum mauritianum* (Bugweed)

**Category 2:**

Invasive species regulated by area. A demarcation permit is required to import, possess, grow, breed, move, sell, buy or accept as a gift any plants listed as Category 2 plants. No permits will be issued for Category 2 plants to exist in riparian zones. - e.g. *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John’s wort)

**Category 3:**

Invasive species regulated by activity. An individual plant permit is required to undertake any of the following restricted activities (import, possess, grow, breed, move, sell, buy or accept as a gift) involving a Category 3 species. No permits will be issued for Category 3 plants to exist in riparian zones - e.g. Jacaranda; *Grevillea robusta* (Australian silky oak.)

To view the full list of invader species as Gazetted on 29 July 2016 – visit:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1rjSqrpPXSxZ3MyNHZpOGVDMXc/view>

South Africa celebrates ***National “Weedbuster” Week*** the second week of October in order to raise awareness of the negative impact of invasive species. Invasive species are causing billions of Rands worth of damage to South Africa's economy each year. Invasive alien plants (IAPs) pose a direct threat not only to biodiversity, but also to water security, the ecological functioning of natural systems and the productive use of land.

Let’s have a look at a few of these interlopers that are causing havoc!

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| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture.jpg | AUSTRALIAN SILKY OAK **Scientific Name**: *Grevillea robusta*  **Alternative Common name**: Silver oak; he-oka (English); Australiese silwereik  **Origin:** Australia  **NEMBA Category:** 3  **Read more**:<http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/242-australian-silky-oak-grevillea-robusta> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (5).jpg | BALLOON VINE **Scientific Name:** *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* Alternative Common name: Heart pea; heart seed (English); blaasklimop; opblaasboontjie (Afrikaans); intandela, uzipho (isiZulu) **Origin:** Tropical South America (Brazil and eastern Argentina)  **NEMBA Category:** 1b  **Read more:** <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/213-balloon-vine-cardiospermum-grandiflorum> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (3).jpg | **BLACK LOCUST**  **Scientific Name:** *Robinia pseudoacacia*  **Alternative Common name:** False acacia, locust tree, yellow locust (English); witakasia, valsakasia (Afrikaans)  **Origin:** North America  **NEMBA Category:** 1b  **Read more:** <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/333-black-locust-robinia-pseudoacacia> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (1).jpg | **BLACK WATTLE**  **Scientific Name**: *Acacia mearnsii*  **Alternative Common name**: Black wattle, Swartwattel  **Origin:** Southeast Australia and Tasmania  **NEMBA Category**: 2  **Read more**: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/205-black-wattle-acacia-mearnsii> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (10).jpg | **BLOODBERRY**  **Scientific Name**: *Rivina humilis*  **Alternative Common name**: Rivina, baby pepper, coral berry (English); bloedbessie (Afrikaans)  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/327-bloodberryrivina-humilis> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (8).jpg | BRAZILIAN GUAVA **Scientific Name**: *Psidium guineense*  **Alternative Common name**: Brasiliaanse koejawel (Afrikaans) Koejawel, Brasiliaanse (Afrikaans) Guava, Brazilian (English)  **Origin**: Brazil  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/323-brazilian-guava-psidium-guineense> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (9).jpg | BRAZILIAN VERBINA **Scientific Name**: *Verbena brasiliensis*  **Alternative Common name**: Brazilian vervain (English), Gin case (English)  **Origin**: South America  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/897-brazilian-verbina-verbena-brasiliensis> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture.jpg | **BUGWEED**  **Scientific Name**: *Solanum mauritianum*  **Common name**: Luisboom, Bugweed  **Origin:** South America (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay)  **NEMBA Category** 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/351-bugweed-solanum-mauritianum> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (11).jpg | **CASTOR-OIL PLANT** Scientific Name: *Ricinus communis*  **Alternative Common name**: Castorbean, wonder tree (English); kasterolieboom, bloubottelboom, bosluisboom (Afrikaans); mohlafotha (Sesotho); mokhura (Pedi); mufuta (Shona); umfude (Ndebele); umhlakuva (isiZulu); umhlakuva (isiXhosa)  **Origin**: Tropical Africa  **NEMBA Category**: 2 Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/326-castor-oil-plant-ricinus-communis> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture.jpg | COMMON MORNING GLORY **Scientific Name**: *Ipomoea purpurea*  **Alternative Common name**: Gewone purperwinde (Afrikaans); ibhoqo; ijalamu; ubatata wentaba (isiZulu); imotyikatsana (isiXhosa).  **Origin:** Tropical America  **NEMBA Category:** 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/264-common-morning-glory-ipomoea-> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (12).jpg | DALMATIAN TOADFLAXScientific Name: *Linaria dalmatica*  **Alternative Common name**: Broadleaf toadflax, wild snapdragon  **Origin**: Western Asia and South-eastern Europe  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/825-dalmatian-toadflax-linaria-dalmatica> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture.bmp | FORMOSA LILYScientific Name: *Lilium formosanum* **Alternative Common name**: St Joseph’s lily; trumpet lily (English); Sintjosefslelie; trompetlelie (Afrikaans)  **Origin**: Asia (Taiwan).  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/276-formosa-lily-lilium-formosanum> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (1).jpg | FOUR O`CLOCK **Scientific Name**: *Mirabilis jalapa* Alternative Common name: Heart-leaf four-o'clock, heart-leaf umbrella-wort, snotweed, umbrella-wort. (English), Vieruurtjie (Afrikaans). **Origin**: Tropical America  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/677-four-o-clock-mirabilis-jalapa> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (3).jpg | HIMALAYAN FIRETHORNScientific Name: *Pyracantha crenulata* Alternative Common name: Asian firethorn, variegated hawthorn. **Origin**: Western China.  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/759-himalayan-firethorn-pyracantha-crenulata> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (1).bmp | INDIAN SHOTScientific Name: *Canna indica* **Alternative Common name**: Garden canna; wild canna (English); tuinkanna; Indiese kanna (Afrikaans); udumbedumbe (isiZulu)  **Origin**: Caribbean region and tropical America  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/211-indian-shot-canna-indica> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (3).jpg | INKBERRYScientific Name: *Cestrum laevigatum* **Alternative Common name**: Cestrum  **Origin**: Brazil, South America  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/457-inkberry-cestrum-laevigatum> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (7).jpg | **JACARANDA**  **Scientific Name**: *Jacaranda mimosifoli* Alternative Common name: Blue Brazilian; blue jacaranda; Brazilian rosewood; fern tree (English); jakaranda (Afrikaans) **Origin**: South America (north-west Argentina)  **NEMBA Category**: 3 Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/265-jacarandajacaranda-mimosifolia> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (2).jpg | **LANTANA**  **Scientific Name:** *Lantana camara*  **Alternative Common name:** Lantana  **Origin:** Central and South America  **NEMBA Category:** 1b  **Read more:** <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/267-lantana-lantana-camara> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (2).jpg | **MADAGASCAR PERIWINKLE** Scientific Name: *Catharanthus roseus* Alternative Common name: Begraafplaasblom (Afrikaans) **Origin**: Madagascar  **NEMBA Category**: 1b  **Read more:** <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/594-madagascar-periwinkle-cantharanthus-roseus> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (4).jpg | MAURITIUS THORNScientific Name: *Caesalpinia decapetala* Alternative Common name: Mysore thorn; shoofly; kraaldoring (Afrikaans); ufenisi; ubobo-encane (isiZulu) **Origin**: Asia (India, Sri Lanka, China, Japan & Malaysia  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/202-mauritius-thorn-caesalpinia-decapetala> |

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| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (5).jpg | MOON CACTUSScientific Name: *Harrisia martinii* Alternative Common name: Torch cactus (English); toukaktus; kabelkaktus (Afrikaans) **Origin**: South America (Argentina)  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/257-moon-cactus-harrisia-martinii> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (6).jpg | **MOTH CATCHER**  **Scientific Name**: *Araujia sericifera* Alternative Common name: Motvanger (Afrikaans) **Origin**: South America  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/227-moth-catcher-araujia-serifera> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture.bmp | PAMPAS GRASSScientific Name: *Cortaderia selloana*Alternative Common name: Common pampas grass **Origin**: South America (Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/228-common-pampas-grass-cortaderia-selloana> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (6).jpg | POM POM WEEDScientific Name: *Campuloclinium macrocephalum*Alternative Common name: Pompom bossie (Afrikaans) **Origin**: Central & South America (Mexico to Argentina)  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/203-pom-pom-weed-campuloclinium-macrocephalum> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (13).jpg | QUEEN OF THE NIGHTScientific Name: *Cereus jamacaru*  **Alternative Common name**: Peruvian apple cactus (English); nagblom; bobbejaanpaal (Afrikaans)  **Origin**: South America  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/203-pom-pom-weed-campuloclinium-macrocephalum> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture.jpg | **YELLOW FLAG IRIS** Scientific name: *Iris pseudacorus*Alternative common names: Yellow flag, yellow iris (English); geel iris (Afrikaans). **Origin:** Europe, western Asia and parts of North Africa.  **NEMBA Category** 1a  **Read more:** <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/660-yellow-flag-iris-iris-pseudacorus> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (1).jpg | **YELLOW BELLS** Scientific name: *Tecoma stans*Alternative common names: Yellow elder, ginger-thomas, yellow trumpet bush (English); geelklokkies (Afrikaans); insimbephuzi (isiZulu) **Origin:** Mexico and Texas, Arizona and New Mexico in the United State  **NEMBA Category** 1a  **Read more:** <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/319-yellow-bells-tecoma-stans> |
| C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet FilesContent.Word\New Picture (7).jpg | WHITE-FLOWERED MEXICAN POPPYScientific Name: *Argemone ochroleuca*Alternative Common name: Devil’s fig; Texas poppy (English); Witblombloudissels (Afrikaans); ugudluthukela (isiZulu) **Origin**: Mexico  **NEMBA Category**: 1b Read more: <http://www.invasives.org.za/component/k2/item/233-white-flowered-mexican-poppy-argemone-ochroleuca-subsp-ochroleuca> |

### **What you can do to help**

* Become informed about the impact of invasive alien plants and invasives of other species
* Remove invasive plants from your garden and neighbourhood
* Join a local hack (invasive clearing) group
* Bring invasive species to the attention of others
* Take a decision to plant only indigenous plants and encourage others to do the same

**Useful sites to visit:**

* <http://www,invasives.org.za>
* <http://www.agis.agric.za/wip> / (Weeds and Invasive Plants)
* <http://www.sanbi.org/information-resources/.../invasive-alien-plant-alert>
* <http://www.environment.gov.za>

*Acknowledgements to* [*www.invasives.org.za*](http://www.invasives.org.za) *for the information contained in this leaflet*

***Visit this website for more information about invasive species that could be in your area and steps that can be taken to combat the problem.***