

Common garden invaders

CATEGORY 1 PLANTS

Declared weeds which should immediately be controlled include:

- Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) Western Cape only
- Hakea (*Hakea drupacea*, *H. gibbosa*, *H. sericea*)
- Red ginger lily (*Hedychium coccineum*)
- White ginger lily (*Hedychium coronarium*)
- Yellow ginger lily (*Hedychium flavescens*)
- Kahli ginger lily (*Hedychium gardnerianum*)
- Lantana species that produce seed
- Cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)
- Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)

CATEGORY 2 PLANTS

Plants that can only be grown if a demarcation permit (forestation permit excluded from this regulation) is acquired include:

- Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)
- Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*)
- Port Jackson willow (*Acacia saligna*)
- Horsetail tree (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)
- Guava (*Psidium guajava*)
- Castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*)
- Weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*)

CATEGORY 3 PLANTS

Established plants do not require removal, if it doesn't occur closer than 30 metres to the 1-50 year floodline. The species may not be stocked by garden centres and planted and it includes:

- New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*)
- Pepper wattle tree (*Acacia elata*)
- Pearl acacia (*Acacia podalyriifolia*)
- Orchid tree (*Bauhinia variegata*)
- Silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*)
- Morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*, *I. Alba*, *I. purpurea*)
- Syringa, Persian lilac (*Melia azedarach*)

For a full list of alien invasive plants, contact the Working for Water toll free information line on 0800-005-376 or visit www.dwaf.pwv.gov.za/wfw/ www.agis.agric.za/agisweb/wip

Vision

A country, and region, in which invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and introductions of potentially invasive alien species are prevented, in order to contribute to economic empowerment, social equity and ecological integrity.

The goals of the WfW Programme are

- Ecological- improved ecological integrity of natural ecosystems through the control of invasive alien plants;
- Hydrological- enhanced water security;
- Agricultural- restoration and rehabilitation of degraded land in order to secure the productive potential of land;
- Socio-economic- providing economic benefits and social upliftment through the control of invasive alien plants.

If we do not clear invasive alien plants...

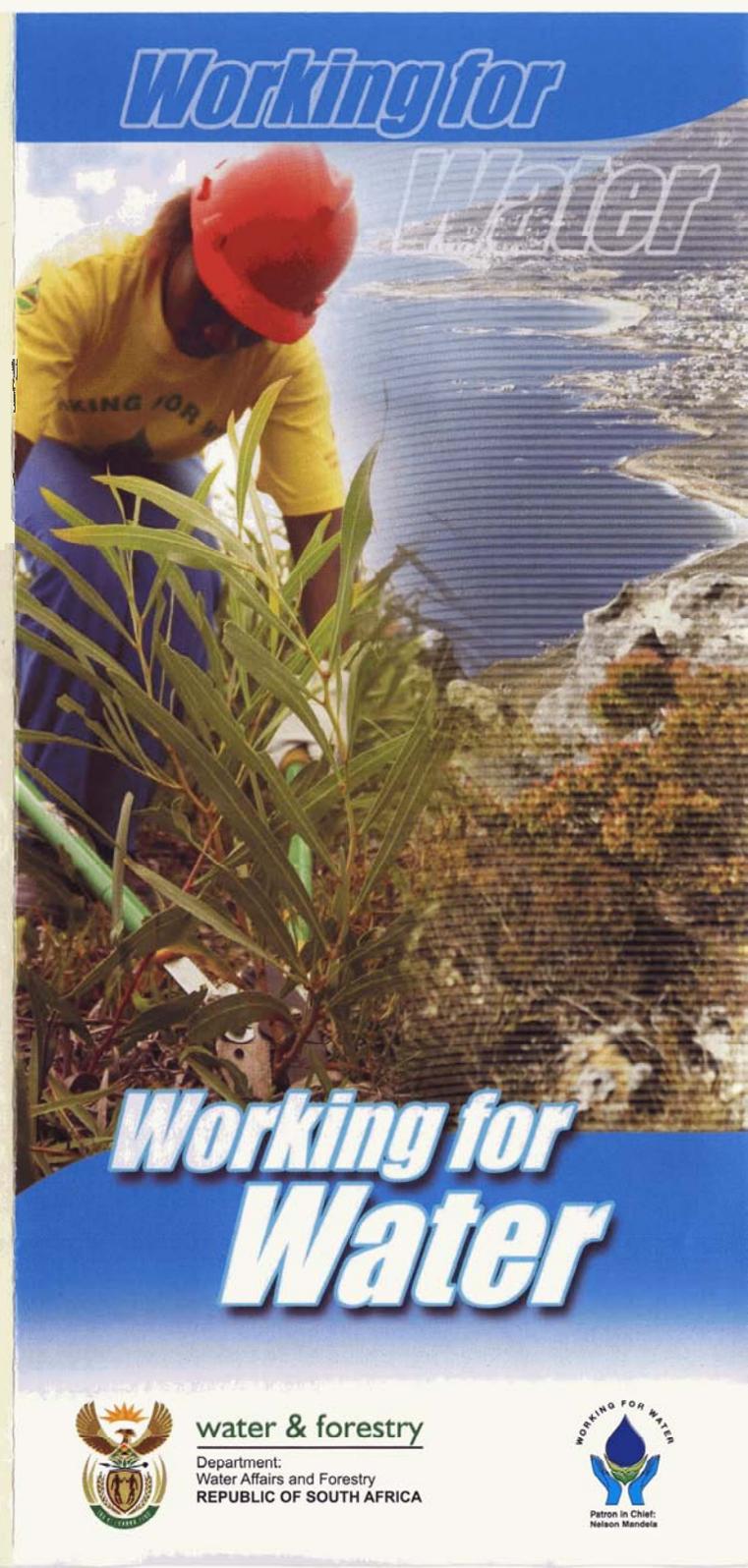


There is increasingly strong evidence that the costs of clearing indicated in these scenarios are accurate averages assuming the successful utilization of biological control agents (where appropriate), enhanced levels of productivity, appropriate legislation and education. There is obviously wide variability in the costs, depending upon factors such as the type of species, terrain, distance from settlements or roads, vulnerability to fire, extent of the follow-up work required, and so on.

Without clearing, this sequence of invasion is inevitable.

For Further Information:

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water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Patron in Chief:
Nelson Mandela

What is the problem?

Invasive species are causing billions of Rands of damage to South Africa's economy every year, and are the single biggest threat to our exceptional variety of plants and animals (known as our "biological biodiversity").

Invasive species are plants, animals and microbes that are introduced into countries, and then out-compete the indigenous species.

Invasive alien plants (IAPs) pose a direct threat not only to our biological diversity, but also to water security, the ecological functioning of natural systems and the productive use of land. They intensify the impact of fires and floods and increase soil erosion. IAPs can divert enormous amounts of water from more productive uses and invasive aquatic plants, such as the water hyacinth, effect agriculture, fisheries, transport, recreation and water supply.

Of the estimated 9000 plants introduced to this country, 198 are currently classified as being invasive. It is estimated that these plants cover 10.1 million hectares or about 7% of the country and the problem is growing at an exponential rate.

Who is fighting the problem?

The fight against invasive alien plants is spearheaded by the *Working for Water (WfW)* programme, launched in 1995 and administered through the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. This programme works in partnership with local communities, to whom it provides jobs, and also with Government departments including the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Agriculture, and Trade and Industry, provincial departments of agriculture, conservation and environment, research foundations and private companies.

During the 2005/06 financial year, the *Working for Water* programme completed 203 358 ha of initial clearing of invasive alien plants and 665 025 ha of follow-up clearing employing 29 470 people from among the most marginalized sectors of society. Of these, 52% are women.

WfW currently runs over 300 projects in all nine of South Africa's provinces. Scientists and field workers use a range of methods to control invasive alien plants.

These include:

- Mechanical methods - felling, removing or burning invading alien plants.
 - Chemical methods - using environmentally safe herbicides.
 - Biological control - using species-specific insects and diseases from the alien plant's country of origin. To date 76 biocontrol agents have been released in South Africa against 40 weed species
- Integrated control - combinations of the above three approaches. Often an integrated approach is required in order to prevent enormous impacts

The Programme is globally recognised as one of the most outstanding environmental conservation initiatives on the continent. It enjoys sustained political support for its job creation efforts and the fight against poverty.

How do we work?

Working for Water considers the development of people as an essential element of environmental conservation. Short-term contract jobs created through the clearing activities are undertaken, with the emphasis on endeavouring to recruit women (the target is 60%), youth (20%) and disabled (5%). By creating an enabling environment for skills training, it is investing in the development of communities wherever it works. The implementation of HIV and Aids projects and other socio-development initiatives are important objectives.

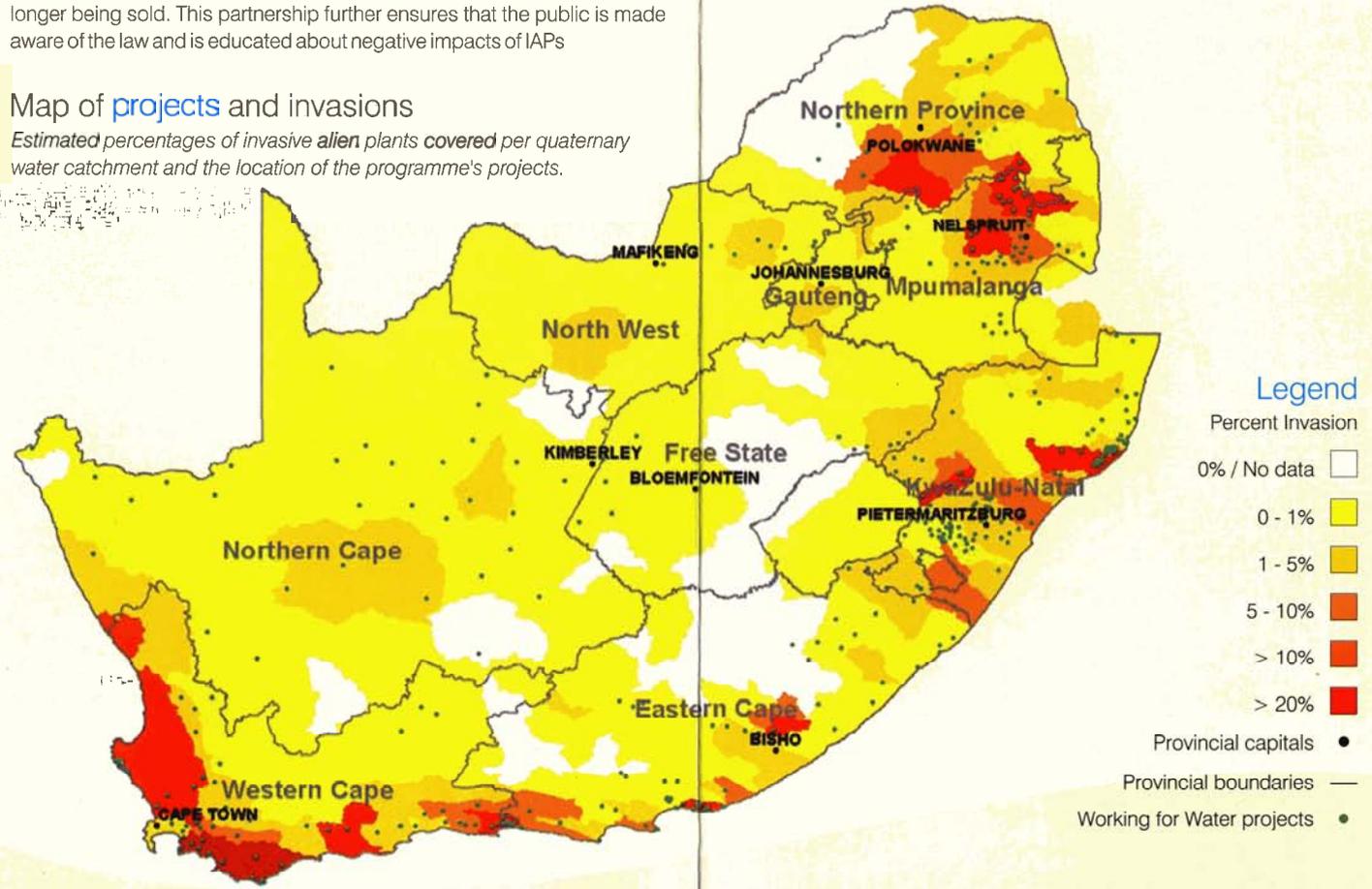
Public Awareness

Education and awareness of the importance of the prevention of the spread of invasive alien plants are critical elements of *Working for Water's* public awareness and education initiatives. The South African WeedBuster Week represents the annual culmination and highlight of the ongoing campaign aimed at the management and containment of invasive alien plants.

Working for Water has set up a partnership with the private sector through the South African Nursery Association, to educate the industry about the amendments to the law regarding IAPs and to ensure that IAPs were no longer being sold. This partnership further ensures that the public is made aware of the law and is educated about negative impacts of IAPs

Map of projects and invasions

Estimated percentages of invasive alien plants covered per quaternary water catchment and the location of the programme's projects.



You and the Law

Our laws relating to invasive alien species are aimed at:

- preventing the introduction of alien species that may become invasive;
- managing species that have become invasive in the country.

The long-term threat of invasive alien species to life and livelihoods is so great, and the potential impact so significant, that far more stringent steps are now being taken. In terms of invasive alien plants, the following general conditions apply:

1. It is unlawful to bring alien species into the country without a permit to do so.
2. It is unlawful to sell certain invasive alien plants.
3. It is unlawful to have certain invasive alien plants on your property.
4. It is unlawful to grow certain invasive alien plants in sensitive areas (eg, riverine areas, wetlands).
5. Land-users have a legal duty to remove alien invasive plants that are a fire hazard in certain areas.
6. The authorities may clear your land of invasive alien plants entirely at your cost, and at your risk.