



Weed Spotters guide



**A guide for regional bodies to deliver a
Weed Spotters network in their regions**

Jane Morton and Wayne Harris

Acknowledgements

The Cooperative Research Centre on Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC) would like to thank the Queensland Herbarium for permission to use their criteria for retaining specimens for incorporation into the Queensland Herbarium collections.

The project on which this was based was partly funded by a grant from the Australian Government under the National Heritage Trust Fund and through the Weeds CRC through the Commonwealth's CRC Programme.

The main resource document used in the development of this guide was: *Building a national, community-based model for preventing new weed incursions* (Morton 2007).

Purpose of document

This document was developed to act as a guide for Regional NRM bodies and Catchment Management Authorities when setting up a Weed Spotter network in their regions. It is not the intention of this guide to displace, nor replace the operation of any existing Weed Spotter operations.

This guide will not apply in Victoria where the Weed Spotters network is delivered as part of the state Weed Alert Plan.

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ISBN: 978-1-920932-76-3

Front cover photo: Weed collection training with the Gladstone branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants.

Credit: Jane Morton

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Established and supported under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres Programme.

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Introduction

Weed potential is difficult to predict. Those plants known to have naturalised in Australia to date have taken anywhere between 20 years to 300 years to reach their current naturalisation stage (Groves et al 2005). How then do we detect new and emerging weeds in their early stages in order to reduce the long-term economic, social and environmental costs to Australia? Community-based weed detection networks are one of the tools that can be used.

The National Weed Detection Project (NWDP) was an innovative national pilot project which built on experience from previous initiatives to test if a community-based weed detection network was effective in increasing incursion preparedness. This Queensland based pilot was called 'Weed Spotters' and was funded through the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management and the National Heritage Trust. The project was trialled in Queensland from June 2004 to June 2008 and based at the Queensland Herbarium in Brisbane. Volunteers detected new and emerging weeds and provided reference points in the form of specimens that were submitted to the Queensland state herbaria for taxonomic verification.

Weed Spotters were trained in weed collection techniques so they could provide specimens to a regional coordinator, who filtered the specimens for incorporation into the Queensland Herbarium collection. Each coordinator recorded the specimen information provided by the Spotter onto a database. Weed Spotters followed a set procedure to report weeds on state or national Alert Lists, and their collections have contributed to the development of an accurate list of these weeds for each region. By providing early detection of new weed occurrences, the Weed Spotters network has greatly improved the distributional and ecological data in Queensland.

This guide uses experience gained from the project to describe the components of a Weed Spotters network and the procedures to establish one in your region.

Advantages of setting up a Weed Spotters network in your region

Detection of new and emerging weeds is often considered the weakest point in early invasive species management. By discovering a 'not seen before' or 'this is new' weed species in the early stages, there is a greater opportunity to deliver an effective response before the weed has spread. Regionally, this will provide substantial long-term economic and environmental benefit. The delivery of weed detection processes and protocols in each NRM region will build capacity through collaboration at all jurisdictional levels and will greatly improve weed detection and response capability in the region.



Queensland National Parks officers learn about collecting weeds.
Credit: John Augusteyne

The process

The community-based weed detection network based on the Queensland model is described in Figure 1. Each component is expanded upon below, as a guide for setting up a Weed Spotters network in your region.

Components of the network

Weed Spotters

Weed Spotters are people who volunteer or work in existing weed management networks, community-based groups and government agencies such as local Landcare or Coastcare groups, the Association of Societies for Growing Native Plants and local government pest management officers.

Weed Spotters are **specifically sourced from existing weed management networks or botanical networks** so they have basic plant identification skills as well as enthusiasm and knowledge of their local ecosystems.

Each Weed Spotter is trained in plant collection techniques, hygiene protocols, and health and safety and is provided with resources to assist in collecting weed specimens. Weeds Spotters are asked to collect duplicate specimens of all new and emerging weeds found in their region.



Weed collection training at Lake Eacham nursery, on the Atherton Tablelands, Queensland.
Credit: Jane Morton

The process

Regional coordinators

The specimens (collected in duplicate so that voucher specimens can be retained in the region) are delivered (by post or person) to the regional coordinator.

Regional coordinators will:

- filter specimens according to criteria (Appendix 1)
- submit specimens to the state herbarium
- provide feedback to Spotters and local pest management officers of the identification, once verified by the herbarium
- update regional herbaria, thereby increasing regional knowledge
- retain and record knowledge and information regarding new weeds in the region
- maintain a regional database on submitted specimens to national standards (Thackway et al 2004; McNaught et al 2006)
- act as a public / community access point for information and services on weeds from all levels of government.

State herbarium

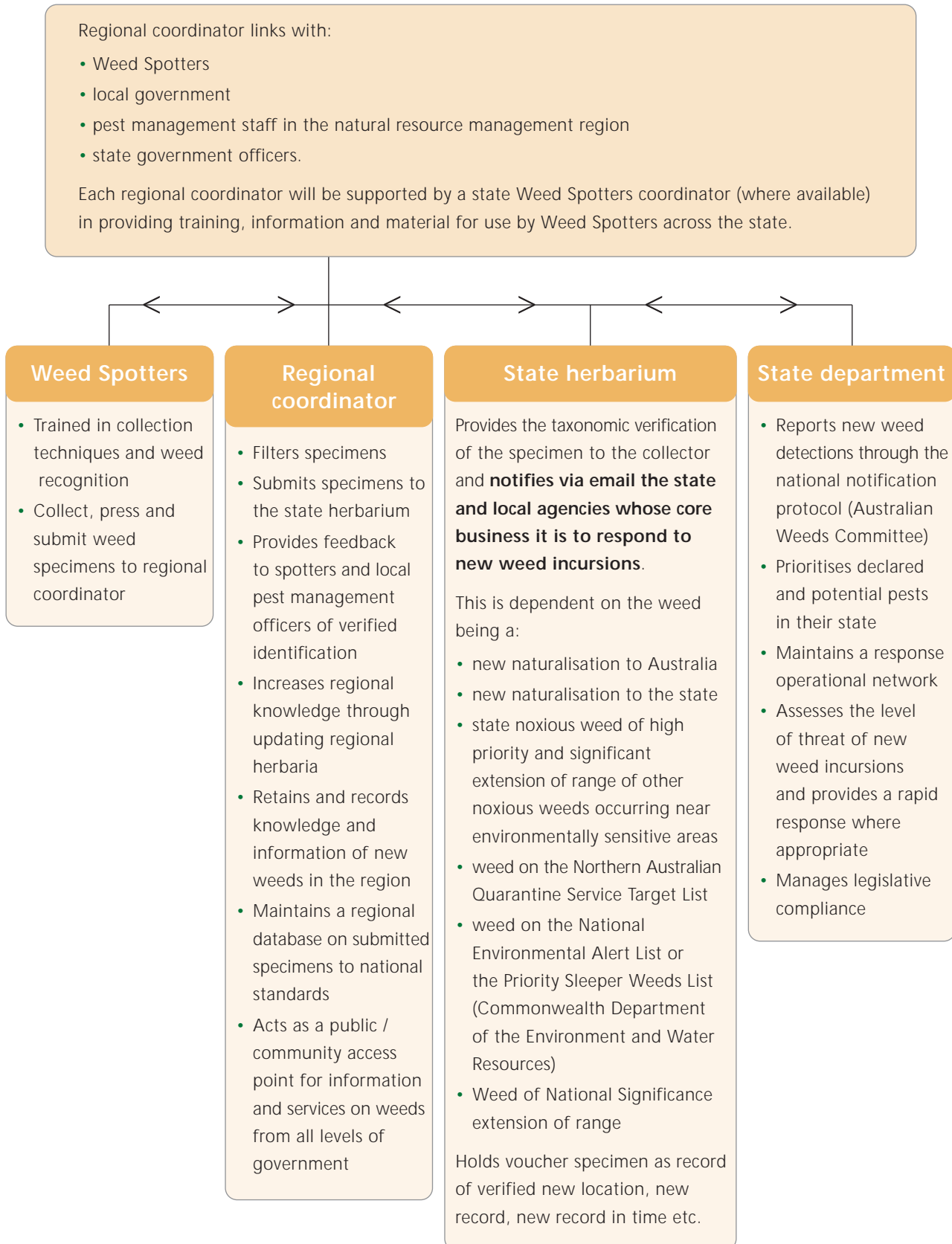
The role of the state herbarium is to provide taxonomic verification of the specimen to the collector and notify via email, the state and local agencies whose core business is to respond to new weed incursions.

This is dependant upon the specimen being a:

- new naturalisation to Australia
- new naturalisation to the state
- state noxious weed of high priority and / or a significant range extension of a noxious weed and / or occurs near environmentally sensitive areas
- weed on the Northern Australian Quarantine Service Target List
- weed on the National Environmental Alert List or the Priority Sleeper Weeds List (Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources)
- Weed of National Significance extending outside of its existing range.

The process

Figure 1: Model for a community-based weed detection network



Establishing a network of Weed Spotters

The seven key elements of a Weed Spotters program

1. State coordinator

This person is the focus of all activities of the Weed Spotters network and is a liaison between the regional coordinators and state authorities. Ideally they should sit within a state agency with access to databases and resources. Currently there are state coordinators in Victoria and Queensland.

2. Regional coordinators

This position is one of the key elements in the program. Each regional coordinator is responsible for recruitment, training, maintaining the momentum of the Weed Spotters network, as well as filtering the specimens and onward reporting. Ideally this position is filled by someone with a background in weed management or similar within one of the NRM regional bodies / CMAs. The coordinator must have good networking and communication skills and have experience with Landcare groups, local governments and similar interest groups. The person should also have skills in plant identification and plant collection techniques as they be will delivering this training to Weed Spotters in their region. (Appendix 2 is a step-by-step guide to building a Weed Spotters network for regional coordinators).

3. Recruiting volunteer Weed Spotters

This role is carried out by the regional coordinator with assistance from the state coordinator when needed. It may be useful when starting a Weed Spotters network, to create a simple, 1-page brochure setting out the role of Weed Spotters, detailing local information and contact details. (The Queensland version is available to view at: www.weedsrc.org.au/education_training/weed_spotters.html).

4. Establishing links with the state herbarium

The whole program is critically dependent on close collaboration with state herbaria. Contact should be through the state coordinator who will establish the necessary protocols for that state. In the absence of a state coordinator, the regional coordinator will need to establish close collaborative links with the state herbarium to assist with identification and notification of specimens (Appendix 3 contains state herbaria contact details).

5. Establishing links with the relevant state department responsible for the management of noxious weeds / weeds

Close collaboration is needed between government agencies and the Weed Spotter program to establish effective reporting protocols (Appendix 4 contains the contact details for each state department dealing with noxious weeds).

6. Resources for the network

Each region will need to be adequately resourced to provide training and ongoing recruitment. Weed Spotters should receive the following resources when attending their initial training:

- Weed Collectors Manual: collect, prepare and preserve weed specimens (see www.weedsrc.org.au/education_training/weed_spotters.html).
- Weed Spotters kit containing resources to assist with collecting data and for collecting and preserving weed specimens (Appendix 5).
- Field plant press, per community group and local government organisation attending the training.

Establishing a network of Weed Spotters

- Weed Spotters newsletter (quarterly if possible) highlighting weeds found by Spotters in the network and new naturalisations to the state or region. The newsletter is usually developed by the state coordinator. If there is no state coordinator then the regional coordinator will need to design and develop a newsletter, which can be based on the Queensland format (Appendix 6). The newsletter serves to increase awareness of new and emerging weeds in the region as well as maintain enthusiasm and a sense of community among the Weed Spotters.



Weed Spotter pressing specimens in the field.
Credit: Jane Morton

7. Training of regional coordinators

- Most, if not all regional coordinators, will require training in aspects such as plant collection techniques, data management and administration. Regular workshops run by the state coordinator should be held to provide these training sessions.
- If there is no state coordinator then the regional coordinator, if not already trained, will need to source training on plant collection techniques from the state herbaria. The regional coordinator will also need to develop a data management system to hold people and plant information. Contact details and training records of Weed Spotters will need to be retained as well as information on specimens submitted to the state herbaria. This information will assist the regional coordinator in demonstrating outcomes from the network and will provide material for the newsletter, eg numbers of Weed Spotters involved, specimens submitted and weeds new to the region.

Establishing a network of Weed Spotters

Potential obstacles to establishing a regional Weed Spotters network

The following lists potential obstacles that may be encountered when setting up and delivering a regional Weed Spotters network, plus some solutions based on experience from the Queensland network.

1. Notification systems

Queensland and Victoria are the only states with a formal notification system in place for new weed records. Other states have informal systems in place, and in these, it is necessary to collaborate closely with the state herbarium and the state department that administers the Noxious Weeds Act or similar. Where possible, local government pest management officers need to be included in the notification loop so that all parties involved in weed management are made aware of new detections.

2. Response to Weed Spotters finds

It is important to clearly explain to Weed Spotters what the likely response to their new weed submission will be.

It is often difficult to provide a management response to Spotters' finds for the following reasons:

- the weed may not be declared under state or local regulation
- there may not be adequate information to assess whether the weed is a threat to the region
- there may not be funding available to deliver a management response.

It may be possible for the NRM regional body / CMA to allocate funds for a management response where other agencies are unable to deliver.

3. Retaining volunteers in the network

Weed Spotters volunteer their time to detect new and emerging weeds. It is important to make them feel valued, supported, recognised and rewarded for their efforts. The main challenges for retaining volunteers in the network are:

- Spotters can become discouraged when they have provided a weed specimen they consider to be a potential threat in their region and the assessment information is either non-existent or the species is considered minor compared to other more invasive weeds in that region
- episodic volunteering continues to be a growing trend and volunteers are increasingly looking for meaningful and challenging roles with tangible and measurable outcomes and a natural end date.

Relationships with volunteers need to be developed and nurtured through the regional coordinator. Volunteers need to be provided with opportunities to further develop their skills through advanced training courses that provide learning pathways. Examples of the types of training that could be offered to volunteers are weed collection and pressing, weed recognition (beginner, intermediate and advanced), surveying and mapping weeds, and weed surveillance techniques. Volunteers should also be made aware that incorporating additional weed specimens in the state herbaria is of great value in itself, as the resulting accurate recording of the increasing spread of a new weed can be a key factor in decisions to undertake state-wide management action.

Establishing a network of Weed Spotters



Testing out newly learned weed collection techniques.
Credit: Jane Morton

4. Spotter finds at local nurseries

Weed Spotters often collect new naturalisations of weed species that are still being sold locally by the nursery industry. The Queensland pilot program did not attempt to engage with the nursery industry, nor were Weed Spotters encouraged to detect or report any potentially weedy species being sold by local nurseries.

There is a real opportunity for NRM regional bodies / CMAs to collaborate closely with nurseries. This can be through awareness raising activities such as weed recognition training and 'grow me instead' initiatives (see www.ngia.com.au/home_gardeners/invasive_plants.asp).

5. Lack of state coordinator

When there is no state coordinator it will be the role of the regional coordinator to collaborate closely with the state herbarium and the state department that administers the noxious weeds / weeds act.

Each state herbarium will be willing to provide verification of weed specimens as long as the specimens provided are of the high quality they require. Each state weed management authority is keen to have information on new weeds detected in their state.

Summary

No matter how effective existing screening or prevention is, there will always be new invasive species that slip through and become established. There is also continued naturalisation and spread of plants already present in Australian gardens and nurseries.

A Weed Spotters network can deliver verified baseline regional data, contribute thousands of dollars of savings, raise awareness of new and emerging weeds and deliver processes and protocols for the early detection and notification of regional weed incursions.



Local government officers, landcare members, regional body officers and landholders learn how to collect and press weeds.
Credit: Sari Mangru

References

- Groves, R.H., Boden, R. and Lonsdale, W.M. (2005). *Jumping the garden fence: invasive garden plants in Australia and their environmental and agricultural impacts*. CSIRO report prepared for WWF Australia. WWF Australia, Sydney.
- McNaught, I.T., Thackway, R., Brown, L. and Parsons, M. (2006). *A field manual for surveying and mapping nationally significant weeds*. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.
- Morton, S.J. (2007). *Building a national, community-based model for preventing new weed incursions*. National Heritage Trust Final report. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- Thackway, R., McNaught, I. and Cunningham, D. (2004). *A national set of core attributes for surveying, mapping and monitoring Weeds of National Significance*. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

Appendix 1. Criteria and checklist for filtering specimens

Regional coordinator's checklist for filtering specimens

1. Is the specimen of good quality?
Yes Go to 2
No Go to 3
2. Has more than one specimen been submitted?
Yes Go to 5
No Go to 4
3. Request a good quality specimen in duplicate.
4. Request a good quality duplicate of the specimen.
5. Give the specimen and duplicate the same unique number before proceeding.
Start at #1 and use the prefix below for your region:
 - a. Region—R#
 - b. CMA—CMA#
6. Check that the specimen has the following plant parts:
 - stems
 - leaves
 - flowers
 - fruits
 - basal parts (grasses, sedges, ferns and bulbous plant) if required.
7. Can you identify the specimen?
Yes Go to 9
No Go to 8
8. Check with other colleagues for a potential identification—can they identify the specimen?
Yes Go to 9
No Go to 11
9. Search the species on the Australian Virtual Herbarium database (www.anbg.gov.au/cgi-bin/avh.cgi) for your state herbarium. Then follow the criteria for retaining specimens, detailed in the next section, to make a decision on submitting a specimen to the state herbarium:
Fits criteria A Go to 11
Does not fit criteria A Go to 10
10. Does the specimen fit Criteria B in regional reference herbaria?
Yes Go to 11
No Enter specimen data into your database including the specimen's unique number and dispose of specimen correctly to ensure there is no spread of weed seeds.
11. Is the specimen dry enough?
Yes Go to 13
No Go to 12

Appendix 1. Criteria and checklist for filtering specimens

12. Continue to dry specimen until ready to submit to state herbarium or regional reference herbaria depending on criteria.
13. Enter specimen data into database including the specimen's unique number. Do this for all specimens that are forwarded to state herbaria and retained in regional reference herbaria. (Those identified by a regional coordinator or colleagues which did not fit Criteria A or B should have the specimen data entered in the database at stage 10.)
14. Take photocopy of state herbarium specimen identification form provided by Weed Spotter and keep on file for backup reference.
15. Attach original specimen identification form to specimen being submitted to state herbarium.
16. Pack specimen correctly with the original specimen identification form ready for postage to state herbarium.
17. Send no more than 10 specimens at any one time to state herbarium.
18. Submit specimens by post to state herbarium.
19. Submit duplicate specimen to regional reference herbaria.
20. Once specimen is formally identified by state herbaria provide a copy of the formal identification letter to the Weed Spotter who collected the specimen.
21. Keep the original letter on file for backup reference.
22. If you receive a copy of a notification notice that has been emailed from state herbaria, take a copy of the notice and put on file for backup reference.
23. Pass on the information specific to your area from this notification notice to the relevant local government pest management officer, the land protection officer and the Weed Spotter who collected the specimen.

Criteria used by state herbaria to determine if a weed specimen is to be retained (based on the Queensland herbarium criteria)

General requirements

All specimens:

- must be of a quality that permits identification to species level
- to have as a minimum; collector's name, date, and information on where the specimen was collected (sufficient for someone to go to the location and recollect it) such as distance from nearest town but preferably a GPS location
- must be suitable for incorporation into the herbarium collections (appropriate size, correctly presented, with label data, not mouldy, not scraps or poorly pressed).

Criteria A: Main collection

The following lists what criteria is needed for a main collection:

1. specimens that increase the known distributional or **ecological range** of a species or taxon
2. specimens that demonstrate the **morphological variation** (including seedlings, juveniles, suckers etc) of a species or taxon
3. **new records** or **new naturalisations** for either the **state** or a particular **district**

Appendix 1. Criteria and checklist for filtering specimens

4. specimens from a known locality where there has been **no collection for at least 10 years** (this is particularly important for rare and threatened listed species, declared species and non-native species)
5. **new records** for a particular **map sheet** (usually 1:250,000 sheet, must be specified by the collector)
6. **declared species** and **weeds** (unless adequately represented for the area)
7. **voucher** material for particular research purpose (must be specified by the collector eg biological control)
8. particularly **good** specimens with fertile material and detailed label information.

Criteria B: Regional reference collections

Selected material for the reference collection are to have **sufficient material** for two specimens, so that a **duplicate** can be incorporated into the main herbarium collection.

They must be one of the following:

1. taxa that are **not** already **represented**
2. specimens that have **features** not already represented by existing material, ie flowers or fruit, or exhibit the **morphological variation** of features
3. specimens that have **detailed label** information as well as fulfilling all other requirements.

Appendix 2. A regional coordinator's step-by-step guide to building a Weed Spotters network

People

Regional coordinators develop and maintain Weed Spotters networks in each of their regions. The following points are a step-by-step guide on how to do this:

1. Contact the state herbarium and discuss the concept of setting up a Weed Spotters network in your region. Ask for guidance on what type of material they can provide to assist with your network.

This may include:

- identification form for submitting specimens
- quality of specimens required
- number of specimens you can submit at one time
- how to pack specimens to submit to the herbarium
- turn-around time frame for verification
- the type of verification (email, formal letter, phone call)
- if they have notification systems set up, how your region can be linked into these.

2. Contact the key person in your state department that administers the noxious weeds / weeds act. Inform them of the setting up of a Weed Spotters network. Ask for guidance on what type of material they can provide to assist with your network.

This may include:

- factsheets on specific weeds in your region
- list of weed species of concern that Weed Spotters can look for
- information on management systems in place for the state's regulated weeds.

3. Contact local plant-focussed community groups in your region offering to present a talk about the Weed Spotters network and how members of these groups can become involved as Weed Spotters.



Weed recognition training in Rockhampton with assistance from the Queensland Herbarium.
Credit: Jane Morton

Appendix 2. A regional coordinator's step-by-step guide to building a Weed Spotters network

4. Deliver presentations to key groups and umbrella groups in your region, describing the Weed Spotters network and how to become involved. Inform the group of the training which will be delivered to potential Weed Spotters. Collect expressions of interest from people attending these presentations for potential Weed Spotters.
5. Establish training date, venue and catering for collection techniques training.
6. Create a flyer to advertise training date, venue and contact details and forward by email or post to those who expressed an interest in becoming Weed Spotters. Include any persons working or studying in the weed management area (local pest management officers, state government officers, industry persons and students at TAFE or universities). Advertise to general public as well if numbers are low. Preferred trainee numbers per training session = 15.
7. Deliver weed collection techniques training to potential Spotters, using the Weeds CRC PPT training resource (see www.weedscrc.org.au/education_training/weed_spotters.html). All trainees should fill out a registration form at the beginning of training. Keep these forms locally for databasing.
8. Provide each trainee with a Weed Spotters kit. Each group involved should also receive a field press to be used within the local community group or by local government employees.
9. Provide support to volunteers trained in your region and inform them through a quarterly newsletter of the weeds they need to keep a look out for.
10. Continue to provide presentations and training in your region.



Learning how to collect and press weeds at a training day.
Credit: Jane Morton

Appendix 2. A regional coordinator's step-by-step guide to building a Weed Spotters network

Plants

The regional coordinator filters specimens submitted by Weed Spotters, using the following step-by-step points as a guide:

1. Use the criteria and checklist in Appendix 1 as a guide to filter weed specimens submitted by Weed Spotters. If the weed specimen meets the criteria it is forwarded onto the state herbarium for formal identification.
2. All specimens incorporated into the state herbarium will be entered into their database. These are a record of all vouchered specimens in the state collection. Usually the state herbarium will provide a letter to the regional coordinator of the formal identification of the submitted specimen. A copy of this letter should be forwarded onto the Weed Spotter who collected the weed providing them with the formal identification of their collected specimen.
3. All specimens submitted to the regional coordinator should be recorded into a database created by the regional coordinator.
4. Specimens that are submitted to the state herbarium and are retained as voucher specimens will receive an acquisition number (AQ number). This number can be recorded into your database if received.
5. If the state herbarium has a notification system set up, a notification notice should go to the state weed management authority from the state herbarium informing them of the botanical name, location and collector.
6. If no system is in place then it will be the role of the regional coordinator to contact a key person in the state department that administers the noxious weeds / weeds act or the local government pest management officer about the verified detection.
7. If there is a management response by a state or local authority the Weed Spotter should be informed of the activity by the regional coordinator.

Appendix 3. State herbaria contact details

National

Australian National Herbarium
GPO Box 1600, Canberra, ACT 2601
Phone: 02 6246 5108
cpbr-info@anbg.gov.au

New South Wales

National Herbarium of New South Wales
Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney, NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9231 8111
botanical.is@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Northern Territory Herbarium
PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831
Phone: 08 8999 4516

Queensland

Queensland Herbarium
c/- Brisbane Botanic Gardens
Mt Coot-tha Rd, Toowong, Qld 4066
Phone: 07 3896 9326
queensland.herbarium@epa.qld.gov.au

South Australia

South Australian Plant Biodiversity Centre
PO Box 2732, Kent Town, SA 5071
Phone: 08 8222 9307
pbc@saugov.sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Tasmanian Herbarium
Private Bag 4, Hobart, Tas 7000
Phone: 03 6226 2635
tmagmail@tmag.tas.gov.au

Victoria

National Herbarium of Victoria
Private Bag 2000, Birdwood Ave,
South Yarra, Vic 3141
Phone: 03 9252 2300

Western Australia

Western Australian Herbarium
Locked Bag 104, Bentley DC, WA 6983
Phone: 08 9334 0500
herbarium@dec.wa.gov.au

Appendix 4. State weed management contact details

State weed management authorities

Queensland

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/4790_8331_ENA_HTML.htm

Invasive Plants and Animals

Biosecurity Queensland
Ph: 07 3405 5537 Fax: 07 3405 5551

Weed Spotters Coordinator

Queensland Herbarium
Ph: 07 3896 9326

Victoria

Department of Primary Industries

See existing Weed Spotters network in the Weed Alert Program at: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/index.htm search for Weed Spotters from this home page

Weed Spotters Coordinator

Catherine McInerney
Department of Primary Industries
PO Box 103, Geelong, VIC 3220
Ph: 03 5226 4401 Fax: 03 5226 4725
catherine.mcinerney@dpi.vic.gov.au

New South Wales

Department of Primary Industries

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds

Weeds hotline 1800 680 244

weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Tasmania

Department of Primary Industries and Water

www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/ThemeNodes/SSKA-52J2K4?open

Regional management offices: 1300 368 550

Australian Capital Territory

Department of Territory and Municipal Services

www.tams.act.gov.au/live/environment/pestsandweeds

Parks, Conservation and Lands (PCL) Weeds Coordinator

Ph: 02 6207 2278 or

Canberra Connect 132281

Northern Territory

Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts

www.nt.gov.au/nreta/natres/weeds/index.html

All of the NT

weedinfo.nreta@nt.gov.au

Biological control ph: 08 8999 2266

Katherine

weedskatherine.nreta@nt.gov.au

Ph: 08 8973 8107

Other regions

Darwin and the Top End: 08 8999 4567

Timber Creek: 08 8975 0307

Borroloola: 08 8975 8752

Tennant Creek and the Barkly: 08 8962 4495

Alice Springs: 08 8951 9210

Western Australia

Department of Agriculture and Food

www.agric.wa.gov.au/weeds.htm

Contact for declared weeds

Ph: 08 9368 3760

Fax: 08 9474 3814

Emergency after hours contact: 0427 443 258

South Australia

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/pests/weeds/index.html

Animal and Plant Control Group, DWLBC

GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001

Ph: 08 8303 9620

Fax: 08 8303 9555

Appendix 5. Contents of Weed Spotters kit and training resources

Kit per number of trainees

- 1 x Weed Collectors Manual: collect, prepare and preserve weed specimens
- 1 x spiral notepad
- 1 x pencil
- 10 x watch tags
- 1 x plastic collecting bag
- 5 x small envelopes
- 1 x Weed Spotters brochure
- 1 x state herbarium brochure if available
- 5 x state herbarium specimen id forms
- 1 x info on where to purchase a field press
- 1 x factsheet on identification from your state herbarium if available

Other material useful at training sessions

- Field guides relevant to area
- Weed books relevant to area
- 3 x secateurs
- 1 x GPS (include batteries)
- Evaluation forms for each trainee
- Registration forms for each trainee
- 2 x sheets of name tag stickers
- Extra pens and texta
- 5 x topographical maps for training in finding grid references
- 5 x rulers
- 1 x trainer's press with examples of dried plants inside
- 4 x presses to practice on and to hand out
- Newspaper for plant press
- Cardboard corrugates for plant press
- Camera; useful for photos for newsletter and future presentations
- Spare watch tags
- Spare collecting bags

Appendix 6. Queensland Weed Spotters newsletter

Example page. The Queensland Weed Spotters newsletter can be viewed in full at: www.weedsrc.org.au/education_training/weed_spotters.html

Spring 2005

WEED Spotters Newsletter

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Welcome to the Spring newsletter

Welcome to the first Weed Spotter newsletter. This newsletter aims to bring you up to date information on what weeds have been spotted in your area, training dates for your area and small feature articles on weedy issues and what has been happening in the network.

A big thankyou to start with, for the great support this project has received in the pilot regions of Rockhampton and Townsville. There are a lot of people out there who are very committed to weed issues and keen to assist with the spotting the new and emerging ones.

To date we have 92 people registered as Weed Spotters and of these 59 have been trained in Weed Collection techniques. Further on in the newsletter there is an article on the training that has been delivered to date with some photos. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of these events the section on 'Up and coming events' sets out some dates to put in your diary over the next few months.

Weeds CRC Regional Coordinators

We now have three Weeds CRC Regional Coordinators (Weeds CRC RC) across the pilot regions. **Trudy Baker** in the Rockhampton region will be working Fridays out of the QPWS office in North Rockhampton, **Sari Mangru** in the Townsville region will also be working Fridays from the Queensland Herbarium (QHerb) office at Cape Pallarenda and **Brent Braddick** has volunteered his time to assist with any specimens from the Gladstone region through the Tondoon Botanic Gardens. All of their contact details can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

All three coordinators came down to the QHerb in early July for training in their role. They were provided training in using the QHerb database HERBRECS to assist them in filtering Weed Spotter specimens and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) database WildNet Lite which they will use to record the specimen label information provided by Weed Spotters. The Weeds CRC RC were also given information and practice on collecting weed specimens including those difficult critters, cacti and aquatics plants.



Megan Thomas (Principal Technical Officer QHerb) showing Weeds CRC RC –(L-R) **Sari Mangru** (Townsville), **Trudy Baker** (Rockhampton) & **Brent Braddick** (Gladstone) how to press a plant correctly). Photo: Jane Morton



Trudy Baker, Weeds CRC RC for Rockhampton, preparing an *Opuntia* sp. ready for pressing. Photo: Jane Morton

Regional Coordinators

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Established and supported under the Commonwealth Government's Cooperative Research Centre Program