

BECOME A WEED WARRIOR



A weed is an unwanted plant, growing in the wrong place. Weeds cause problems because they are hard to kill or spread faster than they can be controlled. Weeds are one of the biggest threats to New Zealand's parks, coastlines, wetlands and alpine areas because native plants don't compete well with weeds for water and food.

The number of weeds found in a reserve is linked to the number of gardens nearby. Most of these are plants that have 'jumped the garden fence' and gone wild. If you live near a community of native plants, the decisions you and your neighbours make will affect the survival of those plants.

EXPLORE YOUR GARDEN & NEIGHBOURHOOD

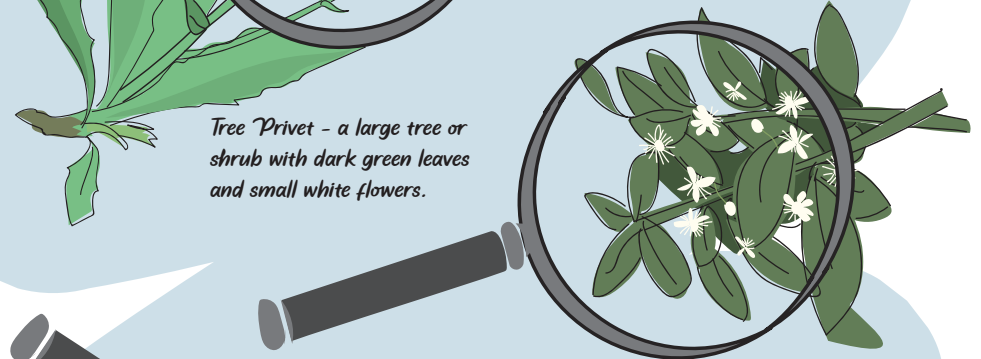
Take a good look at what's growing in your garden and in local areas around you. Use inaturalist.nz to help you work out what the plants are and which ones might be weeds. Visit weedbusters.org.nz to find out the best way to get rid of the weeds you've found! Remove if safe to do so or tell someone what you've found and what they can do about them. Some weeds, like gorse and nettles, can be very prickly so make sure you wear gloves before touching them!

Tell us about three weeds you identified, and what you did about them and we'll send you a Toyota Kiwi Guardians Weed Warrior medal.

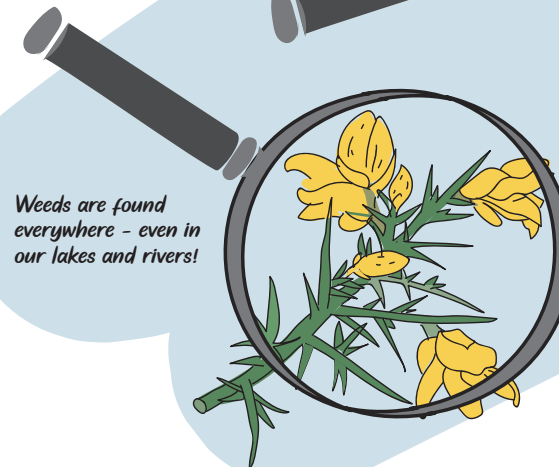
**REMEMBER TO CLAIM YOUR ACTION MEDAL
AT KIWIGUARDIANS.CO.NZ**



Hawkweed and Dandelions
- A low growing weed with thick underground root systems and large yellow flowers. Common to find growing in backyards and lawns.



Tree Privet - a large tree or shrub with dark green leaves and small white flowers.



Weeds are found everywhere - even in our lakes and rivers!

Gorse - A sharp spiny shrub, with yellow flowers. Grows to 2-3 meters tall. Invades areas with high water, bare land and shrublands.

