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Vaccinium corymbosum - environmental weed risk assessment 2022

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Environmental weed risk assessment

Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

The blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.) is an evergreen perennial shrub, growing up to 3m tall. The fruit is a many-seeded blueberry, with white or pale green flesh. Varieties grown in Australia are classified into Southern Highbush, Rabbiteye and Northern Highbush which require varying levels of chilling (i.e. hours below 7°C to induce flowering).

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) <https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/>
- Not listed in Weeds of Australia website [Fact sheet Index \(lucidcentral.org\)](https://www.lucidcentral.org/fact-sheet-index/)
- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, blueberry is listed as a casual alien, cultivation escape, environmental weed, naturalised, weed (Randall 2017).

Western Australia:

- Not listed in Western weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia (Hussey et al. 2007).
- Not listed in 'The naturalized vascular plants of Western Australia 1: Checklist, environmental weeds, and distribution in IBRA regions' (Keighery and Longman 2004).
- Not listed in Environmental weeds of Western Australia (Keighery 1991).



Figure 1 Distribution of blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) in Australia (Source: 'The Australasian Virtual Herbarium')

Environmental weed risk assessment

Assessed using the 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands' (Moore et al. 2022)

Region	Filter A	Filter B	Weed Risk Assessment rating
	Is the species a weed in similar environments in Australia or overseas?	Is the species likely to persist in the environment without management*?	
Kimberley	No	No	Negligible to low
Pilbara	No	No	Negligible to low
Gascoyne – Goldfields	No	No	Negligible to low
Agricultural area	No	No	Negligible to low

*Without management means no fertiliser, Rhizobia, irrigation, grazing management or control of competition from other species

References

- Hussey BMJ, Keighery GJ, Dodd J, Lloyd SG, Cousens RD (2007) 'Western weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia'. Second Edition. The Weeds Society of Western Australia Inc.
- Keighery GJ (1991) Environmental weeds of Western Australia. *Kowari*, **2**: 180-188.
- Keighery G, Longman V (2004) The naturalized vascular plants of Western Australia 1: Checklist, environmental weeds and distribution in IBRA regions. *Plant Protection Quarterly*, **19(1)**: 12-32.
- Moore G, Munday C, Barua P (2022) 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands', Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, *Bulletin no. 4924*, Perth.
- Randall RP (2017) 'Global compendium of weeds' (No. Ed. 3).
- Weeds of Australia database
https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium_repens.htm Site accessed 30 November 2021

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