

**Even if you are not able to join a group** which controls environmental weeds in a local bushland reserve, you can still do a great deal to prevent and reduce the problem. Never ever dump garden refuse in bushland – it does not help the bushland in any way, but by fertilizing the soil, increasing its organic content and introducing the seeds or runners of garden plants dumping often leads to invasion by competitive environmental weeds. Many of the plants described and illustrated in this booklet are still grown in local gardens. You can help immensely just by controlling or preventing the seeding of these plants in your own garden so that the birds or the wind do not spread them into nearby bushland. Birds can spread seeds up to kilometers from your garden to a local bushland reserve, creek line or unmown roadside. The wind only carries them much shorter distances.

**If you would like to know more** about which plants are or may become local environmental weeds or how to control them in your own garden or local bushland, please contact either the local Weeds Officer through the nearest Toowoomba Regional Council service centre or the Parks Community and Volunteer Support Facilitator at the Parks and Recreation Section of the Toowoomba Regional Council.

**Before entering public or private land to control weeds** it is important to get the owner's or manager's permission. Most of the public land within our Region is managed by the Toowoomba Regional Council, and their staff must ensure that anyone entering their land for environmental weed control knows what they are doing and can work both safely and effectively without undue harm to the local vegetation. Check with the Parks Community and Volunteer Support Facilitator.

**The use of herbicides in Queensland** is strictly controlled by State and Federal legislation. Herbicide containers always show the crops or other situations in which the herbicide is allowed to be used, the weeds which may be controlled by the herbicide in that situation or crop, the rate and manner in which the herbicide is to be applied and the safety precautions associated with its use. Many environmental weeds are not listed on the labels but their control by that herbicide is sometimes allowed under certain circumstances.

Queensland legislation defines which herbicides may be used and under which circumstances for 'off-label' control of weeds in environmental reserves and other areas. Check with your local Toowoomba Regional Council Weeds Officer or the Parks Community and Volunteer Support Facilitator before using herbicides in this way.

## **THE STRUCTURE OF PLANTS AS IT RELATES TO ENVIRONMENTAL WEED CONTROL**

There are several ways to control environmental weeds, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Most of these methods are best for certain plants but not others, so choose the method that best suits yourself and the weed/s that you want to control.

It is important to understand the structure of weeds before you can effectively and efficiently control them. Please read and understand the notes on the structure of plants before you start work.

Plants consist of roots (below the soil) and shoots (above the soil). Roots are generally white and shoots are generally green.