THE WEED NAVIGATOR:
A CONTACT DIRECTORY AND RESOURCE GUIDE FOR WEEDS IN
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

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Abstract Finding the right person or information to solve agricultural or environmental weed problems is now easier with the Weed Navigator. The Weed Navigator is a publication by the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems and is the first point of call for agricultural and natural resource managers to find weed contacts and resources in Australia and New Zealand. With more than 3000 entries, the Weed Navigator is the most comprehensive weed contact and information guide currently available. The first part of the Weed Navigator, the Contact Directory, lists over 1020 weed contacts including names, addresses, email, phone, fax, web sites, and newsletters. The second part, the Resource Guide, lists and describes over 1980 publications including brochures, web sites, CDROMS, legislation, posters and training opportunities. Updates are constantly posted over the Enviroweeds, Cropweed and Pasture-weeds email discussion groups in Australia. It is envisaged that the Weed Navigator will become available on the Internet.

BACKGROUND
There are many people working in the area of weeds and weed management in Australia and New Zealand, who may not be aware of the wide range of weed resources available or the existence of other organisations that may be of assistance to them. The Weed Navigator has been designed to help link people such as agronomists, National Parks staff and volunteers, Landcare officers, farmers, conservation and weed officers, scientists and teachers, enabling information to be obtained and exchanged quickly.

Contact Directory The Contact Directory lists over 1020 National, State and Territory contacts. Key overseas listings, weed consultants and media contacts are included. Agency contact details with names of individuals also form part of this section.

Resource Guide The Resource Guide breaks up the vast range of publications into the categories of books and booklets, brochures, electronic media, other references and resource material such as journals, magazines, display material, community programs and training opportunities. A brief description accompanies each publication.

USING THE WEED NAVIGATOR
For educators, the Weed Navigator provides lists of useful resources for training activities. Brochures and individual weed notes are valuable tools for weed identification and management workshops. These publications can add information to workshops and provide an introduction to topics for successive workshops. For the workshop trainer, the Weed Navigator lists education, information and activity kits. This information is particularly useful for those planning to design their own workshops.

The Weed Navigator also lists a number of existing programs, which involve the community and include weed activities. In some cases it may be better to use and build on existing programs in your area rather than start a new program. The advantages of extending existing programs to your area include: the use of existing resources, support from program coordinators, wider promotion of your activities under the banner of an existing program, use of a program that is likely to be widely recognised by the community and guidelines are already available on running the program.

KEY PUBLICATIONS
For those new to the weeds world and looking for key introductory material, the Weed Navigator provides a “beginners wish list”. Some basic books recommended include:
• *Noxious weeds of Australia* by Parsons W.T. and Cuthbertson E.G. (1992). This text provides detailed information on nomenclature, habitat, description, life cycle, origin, distribution, dispersal, properties and treatment of noxious weeds in Australia.


• The *Weed Identification Deck*, Department of Natural Resources, (1997). This deck of cards is joined in the corner by a rivet, to assist in the identification of many weeds found in Northern Australia. Each card has a colour photograph on the front with the description, habitat details and declaration status of the weed on the back. A deck can be tailor made for different districts or regions by adding or subtracting cards as required.

• A selection of additional field guides for your local area. These are provided under the *Information Guides* section in the *Weed Navigator*.

Each state and territory has numerous books and booklets on weed identification. Check the *Weed Navigator* to find out what is available in your State, Territory or local area.

**Future publications** The *Weed Navigator* can be used to identify gaps in resources, which can help with the planning of new material. For those planning to produce individual weed brochures, hints on preparation are provided. Some examples of material being produced by the Weeds CRC include the *Pasture Weed Kit: A Guide for Managing Weeds in Southern Australian Perennial Pastures*, a textbook on weed management for tertiary students and best bet management handbooks and guides for key cropping weeds. The *Managing Wild Radish Handbook* is now available and is followed by handbooks looking at the management of wild oats, annual ryegrass and spiny emex. There is also an environmental weed field guide for south eastern Australia in production.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY**

References to electronic resources such as CD ROMS, web sites, audiovisuals and weed email discussion groups (or listserver Are also included in the *Weed Navigator*. Listservers provide a forum for discussion of weed topics and make information exchange faster and easier. *Weed Navigator* updates are regularly posted on the Weed CRC established listservers *Enviroweeds, Cropweed, Pasture-weeds*.

**CONCLUSION**

The *Weed Navigator* is intended to open the door for everyone to find information to be able to address the cause of weed problems in Australia and New Zealand. It is an important resource to assist the public in finding the information they need. It is envisaged that the *Weed Navigator* will be updated and made available on the World Wide Web when funding is found for this purpose.

**REFERENCES**


Department of Natural Resources, Qld (1997). *Weed Identification Deck*. Department of Natural Resources, Brisbane.

Call us not weeds; we are flowers of the sea. Section A - Nutritious value of seaweeds. New Zealand lays claim to approximately 700 species of seaweed, some of which have no representation outside this country. Of several species grown worldwide, New Zealand also has a particularly large share. For example, it is estimated that New Zealand has some 30 species of Gigartina, a close relative of carrageen or Irish moss. Yet although New Zealand has so much of the commercially profitable red seaweeds, several of which are a source of agar (Pterocladia, Gelidium, Chondrus, Gigartina), before 1940 relatively little use was made of them. New Zealand used to import the Northern Hemisphere Irish moss (Chondrus crispus) from England and ready-made agar from Japan. It's been a big few months for local weed. Here's a handy guide to what's happening around the country and who's set to get rich. New South Wales soon followed suit and in July became the first state to secure a licence to start growing, although with sales restricted to patients suffering only certain illnesses. Standard treatments must also be shown to be no longer viable. The Queensland State Government joined NSW and Victoria in October, passing the most flexible laws in the country. These provide cannabis products to patients of any age, suffering from a long list of illnesses. You Can Now Study Medicinal Weed in New Zealand. As of next month students will be able to learn how to cultivate, extract and produce medicinal-grade cannabis products. Gavin Butler. 06.11.20.