

Hunter Region Priority Weed

# Chinese violet

Weed, NOT your newest garden plant



Photo: Graham Pritchard

Management guide



In NSW, weeds are regulated by the *NSW Biosecurity Act, 2015*. All land managers have a General Biosecurity Duty to contain the spread of weeds.

**“General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).”**

**Chinese violet is covered by a state wide Control Order which requires all land managers on which there is Chinese violet to:**

Notify the local control authority (LCA) for the area if the Chinese violet is part of a new infestation on the land, destroy all Chinese violet on the land ensuring that subsequent generations of Chinese

violet are destroyed; and keep the land free of Chinese violet.

**The Regional priority for Chinese violet is to protect assets from the weed’s impacts. In order to achieve this Land Managers are asked to**

Mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land. The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment. Notify (if it has not previously been notified) the presence of the plant to the Local Control Authority (Council).

For further information contact your local Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer via [Hunter Regional Weeds](#) or visit [NSW WeedWise](#).

## Impacts

Chinese violet is a serious emerging weed in coastal parts of the Hunter Region.

- Known at locations in Port Stephen’s, Newcastle, Maitland and Lake Macquarie Local Government Areas.
- Forms a dense mat to 1m, can climb nearby trees and shrubs to 3m.
- Germinates readily, flowers and seeds while plants are very young.
- A major weed in many overseas countries.

*\* National Environmental Alert Weeds are non-native plant species that are in the early stages of establishment and have the potential to become a significant threat to biodiversity.*

- Rapid grower, can engulf native habitat.
- May infest crops and gardens.
- Competes for nutrients, can reduce productivity or garden health
- Grows on all soil types but particularly prefers lighter sandy soils.
- Prefers sun or part shade.
- Plants in full shade may appear spindly and weak.
- A National Environmental Alert Weed\*.

## Spread

- Spreads by exploding seed capsules.
- High seed production, even from very young plants.
- Germinates readily.
- Seed remains viable for a long period.

Also spread by:

- dumping of garden waste
- layering of stems on existing plants
- fragments of pruned material
- suckering from roots left after removal

## Management

- If found or suspected, do not attempt control on your own, as it can spread very easily from both seeds and stems. Report finding to your local Weeds officer for advice and assistance.
- Infestations can be spread by inappropriate control activities such as mowing.
- Bag to contain seeds and dispose in domestic waste bin, NOT green waste bin.
- New infestations can develop from any rhizomes (roots) that are moved or dropped during control activities.
- Revegetate with suitable species for bushland, gardens or native or introduced perennial pasture.
- Avoid having areas of exposed ground for extended periods of time, which reduces competition for new seedlings germinating.
- Winter frosts may kill the above-ground plant parts, but plants regrow the following spring from basal shoots.

# Identification



Leaves are ovate, or almost triangle shaped. Flower, leaves and unripe green seed capsules.

*Photo: Graham Pritchard*



3cm seed pods dry and split, exploding and sending seeds flying.

*Photo: Graham Pritchard*



Blotchy purple stripes on lower petal of the white flowers are identifying features.

*Photo: Graham Pritchard*



Chinese violet invading a backyard.

*Photo: Jordan Skinner*



Serious invader of bushland, rapidly smothering native bushland.

*Photo: T Morrison.*

# Management Calendar

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Growth stage	Normal flowing time				Flowering possible				Flowering possible	Normal flowing time		
	Normal seed ripening			Peak seed production						Seed ripening possible under good conditions	Normal flowering time	
									Germination possible	Peak germination		
Action	Best time for herbicide-foliar spray							Best time for herbicide-foliar spray				
		Hand pull seedlings			Remove seed heads	Plan next year's treatment program				Hand pull seedlings		

Recommended control options may vary according to your area. There are experienced professional Biosecurity (Weeds) Officers based in each Local Government Area who have local knowledge and can provide expert advice for your weed management situation. Contact your expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or at **Hunter Regional Weeds**.

Herbicide control options for all areas in NSW, including current herbicide registrations, are available for Chinese violet at **NSW WeedWise**.

Remember that all herbicide must be used and handled in accordance with the label or permit.

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Chineseviolet>



*Get the WeedWise app*

## Further information

For further information on how to meet your General Biosecurity Duty on your property your best source is the expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or via Hunter Regional Weeds.

**Contact Hunter Regional Weeds**

[www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au](http://www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au)

**Hunter Local Land Services**

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter)

**NSW Weed Wise**

[www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

