

Environmental Weed Alert.



Blue Billygoat Weed
Ageratum houstonianum

Description: Blue Billygoat Weed is originally from the tropics in Central America and hence grows vigorously as a weed on the north coast of NSW and southern QLD. It forms dense patches on disturbed roadsides, paddocks, hind dunes and headlands. It is a fast growing and short-lived herb with hairy stems. The stems grow to 1m high, are branched and can grow new roots when touching the ground. The leaves are slightly hairy, triangular with toothed margins and display distinctive veins underneath. It produces small blue/mauve flowers in clusters at the end of the stems throughout the year and most parts of Blue Billygoat weed are hairy. It produces seed, which is then spread by wind, water, slashing, lawn mowing and human and fauna movements. Some attractive native alternatives to this weed include Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea/congesta*), Native Violet (*Viola hederacea*), Mat Rush (*Lomandra hystrix*), Beach Lily (*Crinum pendunculatum*) and various creeping grevillea's.

Control: Small infestations can be hand pulled prior to seeding and hung up to dry out. It is important to try to break the seed source and cycle with this weed so follow up work will be required prior to every seeding cycle. You can mulch this weed to keep all green waste onsite or dispose of it properly through Council's waste management system. Larger infestations can be chemically treated using a registered herbicide. Remember to read and adhere to the herbicide label and instructions at all times.