

Environmental Weed Alert.



Canna Lily *Canna indica*

Description: The Canna Lily also known as Indian Shot is an invasive weed native to South America and was originally brought to Australia as an ornamental plant. The Canna Lily forms large clumps of flowers and dense foliage and grows up to 2m tall. It is often found in gardens, dumping sites, disturbed areas and along roadsides. The flowers are very distinctive with bright red to yellow petals on spikes at the top of the stems and appear orchid-like, flowering from summer to autumn. The leaves are mid-green coloured and lance shaped, about 20-30cm long and have a distinct midrib. They produce a fruit as a textured capsule that once dried, splits and produces numerous smooth black seeds. It is these seeds that are spread by birds into our reserves as well as humans illegally dumping garden waste from which they readily regrow. The Canna Lily also has thick rhizomes and roots underground allowing them to spread easily. Some attractive native alternatives to this weed include the Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*), Mat Rush (*Lomandra hystrix*), Native Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*) and the River Lily (*Crinum pedunculatum*).

Control: It is possible to remove this weed without chemical controls. Small infestations should be removed immediately by hand pulling out the stem, roots and rhizomes and legally disposing of the waste. Planting of a competitive native groundcover after removal should deter regrowth. Medium sized infestations will need to have all the rhizomes manually removed underground to completely eradicate this weed. Large infestations can be chemically treated using a registered herbicide for your area with a wetting agent so it sticks to the leaves. Remember to read the herbicide label carefully and follow label directions.