

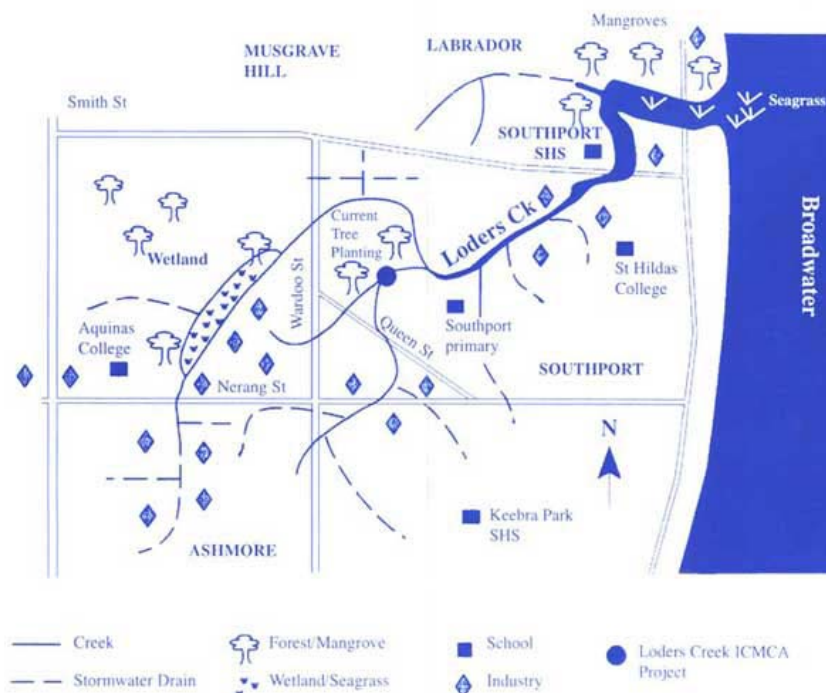
Lord Of The Weeds

Part A

Introduction

Loders Creek is a tidal creek, so it is salt water. Loders Creek is on the boundary to Southport SHS. The area we are studying is along the boundary edges of the school and the creek. The area is about 10-20 meters from the waterline and about 100-150 meters long. The water gets very dirty after rain, as the drainage from the school farm, industrial areas, storm water and sewage drains overflow run into the creek. The mud at the bottom of the creek is very deep and very soft, so you sink into it easily. Near the schools boat ramp there is a rainforest garden, previous students have planted this garden. The rainforest garden is at the start of our study area. Along the creek there are a lot of native plants that are still there, such as the Eucalypt trees and Casuarinas.

Loders Creek Catchment



Part B

Common Name: Umbrella Tree

Scientific Name: *Schefflera actinophylla*

Brief Description: Tall tree with oval shaped leaves that are in a circular formation.

What Makes This Plant A Weed? There are 3 reasons; 1- Spreads seeds very easily, 2- Roots are very strong and take over the soil, 3- Constantly sheds its leaves causing litter.

How To Manage This Weed: Cut and Swab / Make a wound in the trunk spray herbicide into the cut.

- Small trees <1-2 meters pull / dig out.

Area Located: Loders Creek.



Common Name: Singapore Daisy

Scientific Name: *Wedelia trilobata*

Brief Description: Singapore Daisy grows along the ground; it has a bright green leaf and a vibrant yellow Daisy like flower.

What Makes This Plant A Weed? Singapore Daisy is a weed because it overtakes all of our native plants that also grow on the ground like shrubs and grasses.

How To Manage This Weed: Pull it out and spray area.

Area Located: Loders Creek.



Common Name: Asparagus Fern

Scientific Name: *Protasparagus densiflorus*

Brief Description: Asparagus Fern has spike like leaves, although they are not sharp this shrub is not at all pretty, with its small berries.

What Makes This Plant A Weed? It is a weed because it grows so thickly and spreads very quickly that the native plants can't compete with its rapid growing pace.

How To Manage This Weed: Dig it out and don't forget to remove the bulbs also.

Area Located: Loders Creek.



Common Name: Broad Leaf Pepper Tree

Scientific Name: *Schinus terebinthifolia*

Brief Description: Shiny oval shaped leaves; the plant also has small red berries.

What Makes This Plant A Weed? Broad Leaf Pepper Tree is an environmental weed because it spreads into native vegetation areas and overtakes all of the native plants.

How To Manage This Weed: Cut and Swab / Make a wound in the trunk and spray herbicide into the cut.

Area Located: Loders Creek.



Common Name: Easter Cassia

Scientific Name: *Senna pendula var. glabrata*

Brief Description: It has egg shaped leaves, a bright yellow flower and has bean-like seed pods. Small – Medium Shrub.

What Makes This Plant A Weed? Easter Cassia is a weed because it basically just grows over the top of our native plants and smothers them because they cannot get any sunlight.

How To Manage This Weed: Lop off branches then dig out roots / Cut and Swab.

Area Located: Loders Creek.



Common Name: Green Panic

Scientific Name: *Panicum maximum*

Brief Description: Green Panic is a tall grass that looks like sorghum; it is a dull lime green and often has rust.

What Makes This Plant A Weed? Green Panic is a weed only because it has lots of little seeds that spread on the wind, so they travel to places where they are unwanted like; in national parks or native plant reserves.

How To Manage This Weed: Dig out all plants and cover ground with a thick layer of newspaper, then put a thick layer of mulch over that this should stop any seeds growing.

Area Located: Loders Creek.



Part C

Umbrella Tree

There are 3 reasons; 1- Spreads seeds very easily, 2- Roots are very strong and take over the soil, 3- Constantly sheds its leaves causing litter.

Singapore Daisy

Singapore Daisy is a weed because it overtakes all of our native plants that also grow on the ground like shrubs and grasses.

Asparagus Fern

It is a weed because it grows so thickly and spreads very quickly that the native plants can't compete with its rapid growing pace.

Broad Leaf Pepper Tree

Broad Leaf Pepper Tree is an environmental weed because it spreads into native vegetation areas and overtakes all of the native plants.

Easter Cassia

Easter Cassia is a weed because it basically just grows over the top of our native plants and smothers them because they cannot get any sunlight.

Green Panic

Green Panic is a weed only because it has lots of little seeds that spread on the wind, so they travel to places where they are unwanted like; in national parks or native plant reserves.

Part D

We could use the strategies that I have said in Part B to get rid of the weeds. Such as;

Umbrella Tree

Cut and Swab / Make a wound in the trunk and spray herbicide into the cut.

Singapore Daisy

Pull it out and spray the area with an herbicide.

Asparagus Fern

Dig it out and don't forget to remove the bulbs also.

Broad Leaf Pepper Tree

Cut and Swab / Make a wound in the trunk and spray an herbicide into the cut.

Easter Cassia

Lop off branches then dig out roots / Cut and Swab.

Green Panic

Dig out all plants and cover ground with a thick layer of newspaper, and then put a thick layer of mulch over that this should stop any seeds growing.

Part E

It is a great idea to rid this area of its weeds because if we do we will have a nicer looking area and a nicer looking riparian zone around Loders Creek. Because if we do not clean out all of the unwanted plants and weeds they are going to spread more and more, than the whole area around Loders Creek will have these annoying, weeds that are killing our native trees and also the animals. Because some of the weeds can be dangerous if our animals eat them, because they are poisonous or have something else in them that causes sickness in animals.