

Weed Management Priorities – Perisher Range

The past and present land use within Kosciuszko National Park has allowed for the introduction of a wide range of weeds. These weeds pose a significant threat to the biodiversity within and outside of the ski resorts.

An exotic plants inventory was completed in 2005 which identified 175 species of weeds, 60% of these were located in and around resorts. Due to the diversity of weed species and their potential to impact on biodiversity the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management identified that a weed management strategy be prepared.

Weed control within the Perisher Range management unit has focussed on the implementation of a coordinated program to reduce infestations of Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and target isolated populations of Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Russel Lupins (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), Winter Cress (*Barbarea verna*) and *Juncus effuses*. Control of Yarrow within the Perisher Range has been successful with a 90 percent reduction in the infestation size.

Weed management priorities for resorts are based on the following principles:

Critical Priority

1. Weeds which are likely to significantly impact on threatened species or endangered ecological communities (EEC) as identified in the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement.
2. Weed programs which address new occurrences of highly invasive pest species with potential for significant impact on park values.

High Priority

3. Weeds occurring within the upper catchment along water courses
4. Weeds adjoining roads. Resort infrastructure with the ability to be spread by vehicle or recreational activities.

Medium Priority

5. Weeds that impact on cultural heritage.
6. Previous programs targeting weeds that have localised impacts and promote community education or involvement with parks.

Major Weeds Occurring in the Perisher Range

Name	Location	Impact	Control	Control Priority
Brown top Bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>)	Common in disturbed areas where it was sown, also invasive in wet areas.	Potential impact in riparian areas including montane peatlands and swamps.	Encourage lodge holders to maintain areas where the weed dominates by mowing/ slashing prior to seed set.	Critical
Cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>)	Common in all disturbed areas.	Largely confined to disturbed areas forming dense monocultures. Reinfests areas where Yarrow is controlled.	Encourage lodge holders to maintain areas where the weed dominates by mowing/ slashing prior to seed set.	Medium
Great mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	Scattered populations in disturbed areas	Confined to disturbed areas where populations are only small	Treat as part of programs targeting critical weeds.	Medium
Holcus (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)	Not currently widespread but potential to spread into wet areas.	Potential to impact in riparian areas including montane peatlands and swamps.	Treat by physical removal or spot spraying prior to seed maturity using glyphosate using care not to overspray non target species.	Critical
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	Isolated occurrence in damp places or wet areas.	Potential to spread along creek lines and montane peatlands and swamps.	Map current distribution. Physical removal of entire plant.	Critical
Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>)	Still used in rehabilitation programs, common on ski slopes where it becomes a monoculture.	May prevent native plant regeneration and spreads into native vegetation communities.	Target areas where this species may impact on habitat or vegetation corridors for threatened species. Control using glyphosate and replace with native species	Medium
Russel Lupins (<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>)	Once a more widespread weed has been it has been targeted for control in and around lodges.	Favours disturbed areas and is easily controlled.	Physical removal of small plants.	Medium

Major Weeds Occurring in the Perisher Range (Continued)

St Johns Wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Isolated occurrences along Kosciusko Rd. Plants treated near Farm Creek in the Guthega area.	Potential to invade disturbed areas along roadways, spread into sub-alpine grassland communities.	Physical removal of plants at the commencement of flowering.	Critical
Scotch Thistle (<i>Onopordium accanthium</i>), Nodding Thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	Isolated occurrence scattered in and around the Perisher Valley	Confined to disturbed areas.	Physical removal or foliage application using glyphosate.	Medium
Sweet Vernal Grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>)	Common in disturbed areas.	Potential to invade wet areas including montane peatlands and bogs	Spot spray using glyphosate before seeding. Encourage lodge holders to maintain areas where the weed dominates by mowing/ slashing prior to seed set.	Critical
Vipers Bugloss (<i>Echium spp</i>)	Isolated scattered plants along road sides in resort areas.	Largely occurring in disturbed areas.	Treat as part of existing programs as per label directions for glyphosate.	Medium
Wintercress (<i>Barbarea verna</i>)	Isolated scattered plants in and around resort areas.	Potential to spread into undisturbed habitats such as alpine heath and grassland.	Physical removal of plant at the commencement of flowering.	Critical
Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	Widespread weed of disturbed areas.	Potential to spread into undisturbed habitats such as alpine heath and grassland.	Physical removal ensuring all underground material is removed or spot spray application of triclopyr /picloram herbicide as per label.	Critical