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### WHAT DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

People with a passion for beautifying the landscape are invited to play a key role in reversing the growing weed problem under an initiative that is attacking the problem at its roots.

Much of our unique flora and fauna is threatened by invasive plants commonly found in the home garden.

In fact 65 percent of Australia's weeds have escaped from parks and gardens.

Yet until now there were no courses available that could educate the general community about garden plants that have another life as a weed.

Now, the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC), in conjunction with NSW Department of Primary Industries education officer, Annette Beer, has developed the first short course for home gardeners and community groups.

A series of 'train the trainer' workshops are now being conducted around the country with Esperance managing to secure one for our local region. In addition to knowing which plant to avoid, you will go away with the techniques to manage those pesky weeds in your own garden.

A CD entitled '*What does your garden grow?*' has been produced for home gardeners and trainers. It includes a Participant's workbook, over 150 PowerPoint slides, Trainer's guide, fact sheets, *Grow me instead* information and a range of other useful resources.

South Coast NRM Inc. supported by the Esperance Weeds Action Group is conducting this 3 1/2 hour course on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 from 9am – 3pm at the St John Ambulance Hall.

"The course is about empowering people to protect their environment as they garden," said Robyn Cail, Biodiversity Implementation Officer, with South Coast NRM Inc.

"It's delivered in a positive way, with the emphasis on informing the community about the growing issue of weeds in Australia without placing blame for the problem."

"Participants will be able to quickly familiarise themselves with the materials and discuss how they can adapt them for use in their local situation."

There are examples of weeds from every State and additional materials and photographs have been included to make 'What does your garden grow?' more relevant to the Esperance area.

Weeds currently cost Australian agriculture \$4 billion per year.

Further information can be found at:

[www.southcoastnrm.com.au](http://www.southcoastnrm.com.au)

[www.weedscrc.org.au/education\\_training/what\\_does\\_your\\_garden\\_grow.html](http://www.weedscrc.org.au/education_training/what_does_your_garden_grow.html)

**South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the regional group for natural resource management on the South Coast of WA. It is funded through the Australian Government and Government of Western Australia.**

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CONTACT Wendy Cooke  
Media and Communications Manager  
0428 928 536  
[wendyc@southcoastnrm.com.au](mailto:wendyc@southcoastnrm.com.au)

- [southcoastnrm.com.au](http://southcoastnrm.com.au) -  
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