

Friends of the Rivers of Hout Bay

# Invasive Alien Plants in Hout Bay

This document provides a fairly comprehensive list of invasive alien plants for Hout Bay, Cape Town, South Africa. It is split into several tables for ease of use. Each table presents a different plant type: Aquatic & Wetland plants, Climbers and Creepers, Ferns, Grasses, Herbs, Shrubs, Succulents, Trees, and Southern African Plants that are not Locally Indigenous. Each table provides scientific names, common names (sometimes more than one), NEMBA categories, properties of the plants and page numbers. The page numbers refer to the relevant page/s in the field guide, *Invasive Alien Plants in South Africa* by Lesley Henderson (Henderson, L. 2020. *Invasive Alien Plants in South Africa*. ARC-PPRI Handbook No. 21. ISBN: 978-0-620-86146-5), which will in time be available online. Some species in the tables below also have one or more asterisks (\*) in the NEMBA Category column. These asterisks indicate that there is additional information relating to that species beneath the table.

In the tables, 'NEMBA Category' refers to the legal status of each species relating to its control, propagation and trading<sup>1</sup> in South Africa. In terms of the *Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2020*, the categories are defined as follows:

**Category 1a:** Species require immediate compulsory eradication.

**Category 1b:** Species must be controlled or eradicated where possible.

**Category 2:** Species are only allowed in specific areas under controlled conditions (permits are required). Any species identified as a Category 2 Invasive Species that occurs in a riparian area, must be considered a Category 1b species.

**Category 3:** Species may be subject to exemptions, however, any species identified as a Category 3 Invasive Species that occurs in a riparian area, must be considered a Category 1b species.

In the *Alien and Invasive Species Regulations*, 'riparian area' means "within 32 metres of the edge of a river, lake, dam, wetland or estuary, or within the 1:100-year floodline, **whichever is the greater**".

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All the species listed below have a negative impact on biological diversity in natural areas around Cape Town.

## AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANTS

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag iris	1a	Poisonous, Irritant (skin)	51

## CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira Vine	1b	Poisonous	110
2	<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	Moth catcher	1b	Poisonous, Irritant (skin)	110

<sup>1</sup> The specific legal documents are the [Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2020](#) and the [Alien and Invasive Species Lists, 2020](#). The regulations and lists align with the *National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act* (Act No. 10 of 2004).

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
3	<i>Billardiera heterophylla</i>	Australian bluebell creeper	1a	Irritant (skin)	130
4	<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Canary, Madeira or Algerian ivy	3		132
5	<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	3		132
6	<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	Morning glory	1b	Poisonous	120
7	<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Morning glory	1b	Poisonous	120
8	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Nasturtium	#	Edible	-

# *Tropaeolum majus* is suspected of being under-estimated in the SAPIA survey (Henderson, 2007). *T. majus* invades but is relatively easy to control.

## FERNS

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Cyathea cooperi</i>	Australian tree fern	##		304
2	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Erect sword fern, Ladder sword fern	1b		68

## *Cyathea cooperi* invades forests, plantations, wooded kloofs and streambanks.

## GRASSES

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed, Spanish reed	1b		20
2	<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>	Kikuyu	1b*		26
3	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass (silver)	1b	Irritant (lungs & skin)	22
4	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain grass	1b		26
5	<i>Sasaella ramosa</i>	Dwarf yellow-striped bamboo	3		35

\* Kikuyu grass (*Cenchrus clandestinus*) is only Category 1b in wetland areas and protected areas in which it does not already occur. It is, however, highly invasive and transforms ecosystems negatively affecting biodiversity.

## HERBS

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Wild rhubarb, Bear's breeches	-		-
2	<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	Crofton weed	1b	Poisonous	82
3	<i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i>	Chandelier plant	1b	Poisonous	56
4	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar periwinkle	1b	Poisonous	97
5	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Devil's beard, Red valerian	1b		97
6	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Common thorn apple	1b	Poisonous, Irritant (skin), Spiny	64
7	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Patterson's curse	1b	Poisonous to horses, Irritant (skin)	86

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
8	<i>Hedychium coccineum</i>	Wild ginger, Red ginger lily	1b		78
9	<i>Hedychium flavescens</i>	Wild ginger, Yellow ginger lily	1b		80
10	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St. John's wort, Tipton weed	2	Poisonous, Irritant (skin)	88
11	<i>Persicaria capitata</i>	Creeping knotweed	1b		70
12	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Singapore daisy	3		70
13	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	White-flowered spiderwort	1b	Irritant (skin)	70
14	<i>Tradescantia zebrina</i>	Inch plant	1b	Irritant (skin)	72
15	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Devil Thorns, Duwweltjie	-	Spiny, Punctures bicycle tyres	-
16	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Wild verbena, Tall verbena, Purple top	1b	Possibly poisonous	92
17	<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater periwinkle	1b	Poisonous	72

## SHRUBS

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Montpellier broom	1a	Poisonous	276
2	<i>Hakea drupacea</i>	Sweet hakea	1b	Spiny, Fire prone, High water use	170
3	<i>Hakea gibbosa</i>	Rock hakea	1b	Spiny, Fire prone, High water use	170
4	<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>	Willow hakea	1b	Fire prone, High water use	222
5	<i>Hakea sericea</i>	Silky hakea	1b	Spiny, Fire prone, High water use	170
6	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	1b	Highly Poisonous (lethal), Irritant (skin)	184
7	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Australian myrtle	1b		250
8	<i>Plectranthus barbatus</i> var. <i>grandis</i>	Woolly plectranthus, 'Abyssinian' coleus	1b		258
9	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	Yellow firethorn	1b	Poisonous	190
10	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil plant	2	Highly Poisonous (lethal)	208
11	<i>Rubus cuneifolius</i>	American bramble	1b	Spiny	194
12	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble, European blackberry	2	Spiny	196
13	<i>Senna didymobotrya</i>	Peanut butter cassia	1b	Poisonous	284
14	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	1b	Poisonous	166

## SUCCULENTS

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Agave americana</i> subsp. <i>americana</i> var. <i>expansa</i>	Spreading century-plant	3	Irritant (skin), Spiny	140
2	<i>Agave sisalana</i>	Sisal hemp, Sisal	2	Irritant (skin), Spiny	140
3	<i>Furcraea foetida</i>	Mauritius hemp	1a	Irritant (skin), Spiny	148
4	<i>Opuntia</i> spp.	Prickly pear, Cactus	1b	Irritant (skin), Spiny	156

## TREES

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Rooikrans	1b	Fire prone, High water use	212
2	<i>Acacia elata</i>	Pepper tree wattle	1b	Fire prone, High water use	298
3	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Long-leaved wattle	1b	Fire prone, High water use	212
4	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black wattle	2	Fire prone, High water use	298
5	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Australian blackwood	2	Fire prone, High water use	214
6	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	Port Jackson	1b	Fire prone, High water use	214
7	<i>Cestrum laevigatum</i>	Inkberry	1b	Poisonous	242
8	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	1b		248
9	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River red gum	1b**	Fire prone, High water use	218
10	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar gum	1b**	Fire prone, High water use	220
11	<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i>	Spider gum	1b**	Fire prone, High water use	220
12	<i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i>	Karri	1b**	Fire prone, High water use	220
13	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	Saligna gum, Rose gum	1b**	Fire prone, High water use	222
14	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest red gum	1b**	Fire prone, High water use	222
15	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Common fig	-		210
16	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	Queensland poplar, Bleeding-heart tree	1b	Irritant (skin)	248
17	<i>Melaleuca hypericifolia</i>	Red flowering tea tree	1a		273
18	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Syringa	1b	Highly Poisonous (lethal)	302
19	<i>Myoporum montanum</i>	Manatoka	3	Poisonous	224
20	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	1b	Highly Poisonous (lethal), Irritant (skin)	226
21	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	Stink bean, Australian albizia	1b	Possibly poisonous	302
22	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Date Palm	-	Fire prone, High water use	-
23	<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary pine	3	Fire prone, High water use	172
24	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	3	Fire prone, High water use	174

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
25	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Cluster pine	1b***	Fire prone, High water use	174
26	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata pine, Monterey pine	1b***	Fire prone, High water use	176
27	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Australian Cheesewood	1b		226
28	<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey poplar	2		260
29	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust	1b	Poisonous	194
30	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping willow	-	Invades water courses	228
31	<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>	Brazilian pepper tree	3	Irritant (lungs & skin)	282
32	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Red sesbania	1b	Poisonous	288
33	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Bugweed	1b	Irritant (lungs & skin)	268
34	<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Australian brush-cherry, Eugenia	-		268
35	<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	Rose apple	3		230
36	<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Yellow bells	1b		288

\*\* The six gum species (*Eucalyptus*) are Category 1b only when in riparian areas, protected areas, the Fynbos Biome or the Forest Biome. The six gum species are also Category 1b within urban areas if they had a diameter of less than 400 mm (circumference of less than 1,257 mm) at a height of 1,000 mm at the date of the first publication of the Regulations (August 2014).

\*\*\* *Pinus pinaster* and *P. radiata* are only Category 1b when in riparian areas, protected areas, any property directly abutting a protected area or where they are ruled to pose a wildfire risk. They are also Category 1b within urban areas if they had a diameter of less than 400 mm (circumference of less than 1,257 mm) at a height of 1,000 mm at the date of the first publication of the Regulations (August 2014).

## SOUTHERN AFRICAN PLANTS THAT ARE NOT LOCALLY INDIGENOUS

The plants listed below are indigenous to parts of Southern Africa, but they are not locally indigenous to the Cape Peninsula. They are not officially listed as invasive, but they are clearly invading natural areas and displacing local plant communities. These plants may be used in gardens but should be removed from natural areas.

No	Species	Common Name	NEMBA Category	Properties	Page
1	Plumbago Spp.	Plumbago	-		-
2	<i>Podranea brycei</i>	Zimbabwe Creeper	-		-
3	<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Cape Honeysuckle	-		-

This is a living document and will be updated when new invasive alien plants are detected in Hout Bay. This list would not have been possible without all the hard work Lesley Henderson put into her excellent book, *Invasive Alien Plants in South Africa*. Many thanks to those who reviewed the draft version of this list and those who gave suggestions.

List compiled by Ian Preston.