



# Sleeper Weeds

spread the word not the weed!

## Blackberry

*Rubus fruticosus* agg.



**Height/form:** Shrub 2–6 m

**Flowers:** 5 petals, white to pink, late spring summer

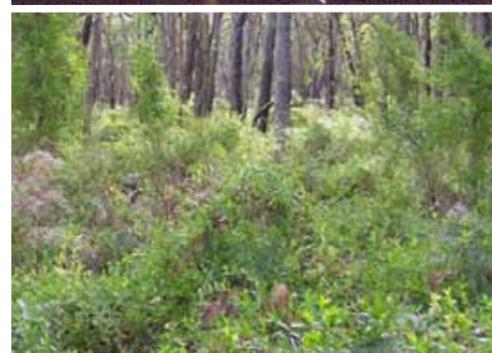
**Leaves:** 3–5 leaflets, dark green upper surface and a paler underneath

**Seeds:** Aggregate of small drupelets, 1–3 cm in diameter, 1 seed per drupelet, maturing to black

**Threat:** Impenetrable thickets exclude other vegetation and the accumulation of dead canes and leaves can be a fire hazard.

## Bluebell Creeper or Sollya

*Billardiera heterophylla*



**Height/form:** Evergreen twisting shrub or climber

**Flowers:** Small clusters of blue, pink or white flowers. Individual flowers bell shaped, 1 cm long and wide with 5 petals

**Leaves:** Shiny oval or lance shaped, 5–7 cm long

**Fruit:** Fleshy, oval shaped, green, ripening to blue–purple

**Threat:** Smothers (competition for sunlight) or strangles other plants with a dense mat.

**Sleeper weeds** are non-native plants that have naturalised but have not yet reached their potential to form large and widespread populations in Australia. These plants may appear benign for many years then spread rapidly following certain natural events such as flood, fire, drought or climate change, or a change in land or water management, or on reaching a critical population level.

## Gorse

*Ulex europaeus*



**Height/form:** Spiny shrub 2–4 m

**Flowers:** Yellow, pea-shaped growing singly from stem

**Leaves:** Grey-green spines and leaves are coated in wax. They end in a sharp yellow point

**Seeds:** Hard green-brown seeds housed in brown-black, hairy pea-pods 10–20 mm long

**Threat:** Impenetrable thickets exclude other vegetation, acidify the soil and can be a fire hazard.

## Sweet Pittosporum

*Pittosporum undulatum*



**Height/form:** Dense spreading tree 5–20 m

**Flowers:** Small creamy white, fragrant flowers in clusters

**Leaves:** Mid-dark green, shiny with generally wavy margins

**Fruit:** Fleshy fruit 15 mm in diameter, green ripening to orange. Fruits split in winter to reveal numerous sticky seeds

**Threat:** Nutrient rich leaf litter and dense shading disadvantage native vegetation in the competition for sunlight.

**Contact** **Authorised Officers**  
KI NRM Board, phone (08) 8553 4300



A joint initiative of the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board and Department for Environment and Heritage

## What can you do?

- Plant natives from your local area.
- Remove known sleeper weeds from your garden.
- Don't share or sell sleeper weeds.
- Think about the weedy potential of anything you plant in your garden. Consider whether you can manage to control seedlings and suckering.

Images; KI NRM Board, Department for Environment and Heritage and C. Wilson