



Asset Acceptance

LANDSCAPING ADVISORY NOTE

LAN 01 rev 2

Fireweed Alert for Developers, Landscapers Builders and Couch Turf Suppliers

Background:

Fireweed has recently been found growing in couch turf imported from Fireweed infested areas in NSW.

- Fireweed, a Weed of National Significance, Prohibited Pest Plant and Noxious Weed in the ACT and NSW, has been found growing in contaminated couch turf laid in new development sites, notably at Crace, Franklin and Forde and Casey.
- Fireweed is poisonous to horses and cattle and has the potential to invade native grasslands and quickly degrade agricultural pasture.
- Fireweed is a small herb up to 70 centimetres tall, often with a cluster of yellow daisy flowers. The leaves are bright green between 2 centimetres to 7 centimetres long. The photo attached shows a recently germinated Fireweed plant in cured couch turf at Forde.



Photo of Fireweed in Forde.

Advice:

1. Turf from known Fireweed infested areas must not be imported or used in the ACT. There are alternative sources of turf that are grown in areas free of Fireweed. In addition the supplier must provide written certification that the turf is Fireweed seed free.
2. Imported turf must to be treated with a pre-emergent herbicide prior to delivery and the supplier must hold a NSW Turf Quality Assurance certificate.

3. If you see a Fireweed plant growing in turf or in nearby areas, you are legally required to report it immediately. Please contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or email fireweed@act.gov.au.
4. Reckless importation or supply of fireweed into the ACT is an offence under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* with a maximum penalty of \$5,500.
5. Certification for Landscape Handover must include confirmation that the site is free of fireweed and that turf sourced from NSW is from regions free of Fireweed.
6. Further information can be found in the [Fireweed Pest Plant Management Plan](#).

Administrative Arrangement

This Advisory Note takes effect from the date of endorsement by the Directors.

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