Sustainable Garden Centre certification project

James Robilliard
Sustainable Gardening Australia Inc.

- Not for Profit, NGO
- Operating for since 2003
- Aim - To change the way Australians garden to be more appropriate to the local environment
- Target group - home gardeners, retail nurseries and professional gardeners
Sustainable Garden Centre project

- Industry relevant
- Easy for implement
- Real environmental outcomes
- Connect with local community
Sustainable Garden Centre
Funding support

WA, SA & Tas

‘Defeating the Weed Menace’ programme

WA

Victoria

Supported by the Victorian Government’s
Tackling Weeds on Private Land initiative
Sustainable Garden Centre

key areas

- Water
- Chemicals
- Weeds
- Biodiversity
- Resource use
Sustainable Garden Centre structure

- On-going staff training
- Environmental code of best practice
- Customer education material
- Annual audit
Sustainable Garden Centre
invasive plant requirement

Remove from sale plants on the following lists:

• Weeds of National Significance
• National Environmental Alert
• State Declared
• State Alert
• Local invasive (Council, NRM board)
Plants removed from sale from one Victorian Sustainable Garden Centre

1. Agapanthus praecox spp. orientalis
2. Vinca major
3. Acacia baileyana
4. Lonicera japonica
5. Lachenalia reflexa (National Weed Alert)
6. Lantana camara (State Declared)
7. Sollya heterophylla
8. Polygala myrtifolia
9. Lavandula stoechas (Regionally Prohibited)
10. Zantedeschia aethiopica
11. Pelargonium alchemilloides (National Weed Alert)

Record to date: 41 plant species removed from sale
Sustainable Garden Centre
weed customer education material
Other requirements in relation to invasive garden plants

- Remove invasive plants from nursery display beds
- Check the nursery boundaries regularly for escapees
- Distribute council weed brochures/booklets
Sustainable Garden Centre community campaigns
- Weedbuster Week 2007

Give them an inch.....
....they’ll take a mile!

Some plants can’t be trusted to stay in the garden!
Garden plants escaping into bushland are a real problem. You can help by choosing native plants suited to your local area. Just look for the “I’m a Local Hero” labels on plants throughout this nursery!

It’s true, we can make a difference!
Sustainable Garden Centres

Vic – 49 Garden Centres signed up / 20 certified
WA – 12 Garden Centres signed up / 5 certified
Other SGA projects that address invasive plants

- **ECLIPs (Environmental Certification for Landscape Professionals)**
  - launch March 2008

- **Green Gardeners Training Programme for Industry**
  - more than 2,000 Victorian landscapers and nursery staff have completed

- **Community Workshops**
  - 167 over 4 years

- **Sustainable Gardening booklets**
  - 12 council booklets

- **Cuttings: SGA monthly newsletter (distribution 5,000)**
  - Weed of the Month
Further information

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