COMMON INVASIVE PLANTS

These plants can be found in most Boorlo | Perth backyards and public open spaces. The flowers can be very pretty and they offer many opportunities for creative exploration. This can be as simple as drawing directly from the specimen, to making ink, dye, weaving materials, and more.

In my explorations in the riparian zone, I have found that Arum Lily and Morning Glory offer quite good material for weaving. Watsonia, Inkweed, Soursob and blackberry make good inks and dyes.

Here is a selection of my favourites, the list is not exhaustive, there are many others, look online for bush care resources before you harvest.

Remember to walk with care and take only what you need, do no harm, stick to the paths and use protective clothing.

ARUM LILY

Common name
Arum Lily

Scientific Name
Zantedeschia aethiopica

Type of plant
Bulbs or Corms

Arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*): A Declared Plant that out-competes native plant communities. https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/arum-lily/

I have found that the long stems can be used as a weaving material, although they need to be dried out over a long period of time. The flowers can be dried out to make a kind of papery leather-like material.

BLACK BERRY NIGHTSHADE

Common name
Black Berry Nightshade

Scientific Name
Solanum nigrum

Type of plant
Uncategorised

Black berry nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*): can disrupt ecological processes or result in loss of biodiversity but is not a major threat. https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/organisms/110127

https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/black-berry-nightshade/

COAST MORNING GLORY OR MILE-A-MINUTE

Common name
Coast Morning Glory or Mile-a-Minute

Scientific Name
Ipomoea cairica

Type of plant
Uncategorised

Coastal Morning-glory (*Ipomoea cairica*): smothers vegetation, disrupting ecological processes. https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/coast-morning-glory-or-mile-a-minute/

FREESIA HYBRID

Common name
Freesia Hybrid

Scientific Name
Freesia sp various

Type of plant
Bulbs or Corms

Freesia (*Freesia sp.*): a serious weed in most urban bushlands.
https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/freesia-hybrid/

WALL FUMITORY

Common name
Wall Fumitory

Scientific Name
Fumaria muralis

Type of plant
Uncategorised

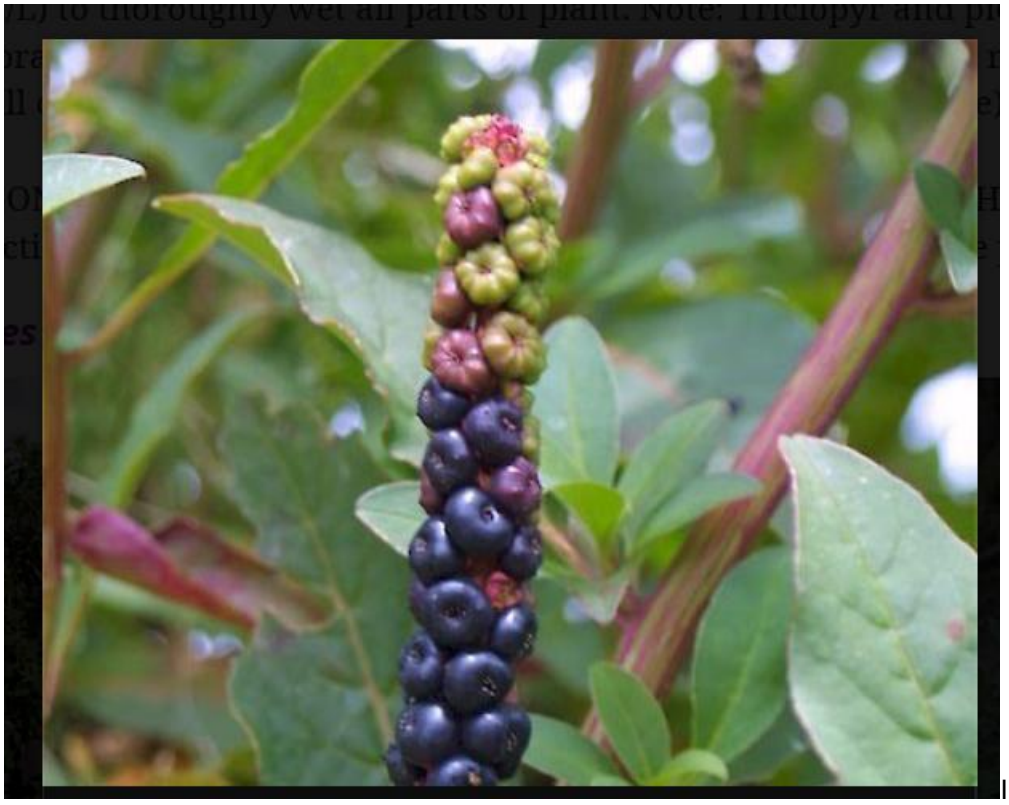
Fumitory (*Fumaria capreolata / Fumaria muralis*): sprawls and entwines over native vegetation.
https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/wall-fumitory/

https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/white-fumitory/

INKWEED

Also known as Pokeberry in America.

Toxic!



Inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*): poisonous to ingest but not to touch. Traditional uses include as a dye and a medicine-food, if properly prepared. It can be confused with Pokeweed (P. americana), categorised as an Biosecurity Alert Invasive Species in WA, while inkweed is not. https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/red-ink-plant/ https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/biosecurity-alert-pokeweed

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GARDEN NASTURTIUM

Common name
Garden Nasturtium

Scientific Name
Tropaeolum majus

Type of plant
Uncategorised

Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*): causes minimal disruption to ecological processes or loss of biodiversity. https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/garden-nasturtium/

Edible and good in salads, the flowers can be used to make ink, and the leaves are very pretty in designs and patterns.

PENNYROYAL

Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*): Widely naturalised in south-western Western Australia and regarded as an environmental weed. Poisonous to ingest but not to touch. Traditionally used as a medicine-food and flea repellent.
https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/mentha_pulegium.htm

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SOURSOB

Common name
Soursob

Scientific Name
Oxalis pes-caprae

Type of plant
Bulbs or Corms

Soursob (*Oxalis pes-caprae*): a Declared Pest.
https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/soursob/

The flower makes a vibrant yellow ink!

BUGLE LILY

Common name
Bugle Lily

Scientific Name
Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera was previously named Watsonia bulbillifera

Type of plant
Bulbs or Corms

Watsonia (*Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera*): All Watsonias in West Australia are also a declared Pest Plant. A major threat to remnant vegetation.
https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/bugle-lily/

You may be tempted to try to dry the leaves out for weaving, but I have always found that it gets mouldy very easily. The flowers can make quite nice inks however.

LARGEFLOWER WOOD SORREL

Common name
Largeflower Wood Sorrel

Scientific Name
Oxalis purpurea

Type of plant
Bulbs or Corms

Wood sorrel (*Oxalis purpurea*): major threat to the conservation values of bushland if it becomes established. https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/largeflower-wood-sorrel/