

# Control of Weeds with Underground Reproductive Structures

- Examples: Weeds with
- Tap roots - catsear, dandelion
  - Rhizomes - asparagus fern, ginger plant
  - Bulbs and corms - oxalis, onion weed, watsonia, freesias, montbretia
  - Tubers - madiera vine, arrow head vine

## METHODS OF REMOVAL

### 1 HAND REMOVAL OF PLANTS WITH A TAPROOT

Examples: Paddy's lucerne, dandelion

- STEP 1** Gently remove and bag seeds or fruit.
- STEP 2** Push a narrow trowel or knife into the ground next to the taproot. Carefully loosen soil. Repeat this step around the taproot.
- STEP 3** Grasp stem at ground level, rock plant back wards and forwards and pull gently.
- STEP 4** Gently tap the roots to dislodge soil. Replace disturbed soil and lightly pat down.

### 2 CROWNING (Many grasses can be crowned)

Example: asparagus fern

- STEP 1** Gently remove and bag stems with seed or fruit.
- STEP 2** Grasp the leaves or stems together so that the base of the plant is visible.
- STEP 3** Insert, at an angle, a knife or lever, close to the "crown".
- STEP 4** Cut through all the roots around the crown.
- STEP 5** Remove and bag the crown.



HAND REMOVAL



CROWNING



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# Control of Weeds with Underground Reproductive Structures cont..



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## METHODS OF REMOVAL

### 3 REMOVAL OF PLANTS WITH BULBS, CORMS OR TUBERS

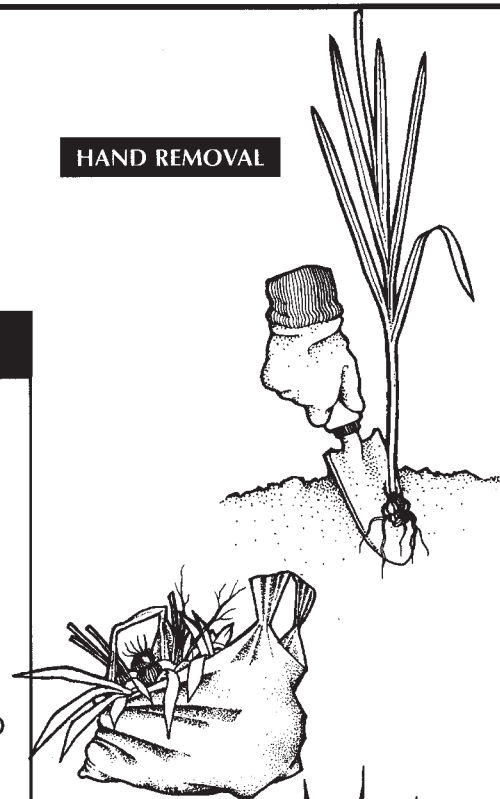
Examples: onion weed, watsonia, arrowhead vine, montbretia

- STEP 1** Move leaf litter away from base of plant.
- STEP 2** Dig down next to the stem until the bulb or tuber is reached.
- STEP 3** Remove plant and carefully bag the bulb or tuber.

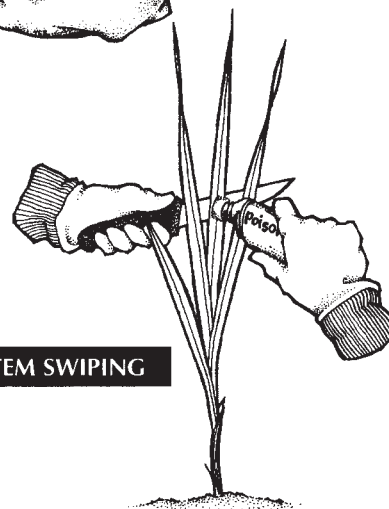
### 4 HERBICIDE TREATMENT - STEM SWIPING

- STEP 1** Gently remove any seed or fruit and carefully place into a bag.
- STEP 2** Using a herbicide applicator, swipe the stems/leaves.

HAND REMOVAL



STEM SWIPING



## considerations

- Further digging may be required for plants with more than one tuber (e.g. arrow head vine).
- Some bulbs (e.g. oxalis, onion weed) may have small bulbils attached or present in the soil around it. These need to be removed.
- It may be quicker and more effective to dig out the weed.
- Make sure native plants and seedlings will not be affected.
- Learn and understand how the herbicide works - for bulb and corm species the most effective time is after flowering and before fruit is set.
- Have you addressed all safety issues ?