



## Alien Plants

The Honorary Rangers continue their battle against alien plants. Alien plants are plants that are non-native (introduced) to an ecosystem, usually from foreign countries. These plants cause economic or environmental harm and adversely affect human and/or animal health. Alien plants are often water thirsty, drought resistant and poisonous. They choke out the indigenous plants, reducing the available grazing. The most common alien plants in Marloth are Parthenium (aptly named famine weed), Pest Pear of Australia (prickly pear), Madagascar Periwinkle and Queen of the Night.

How can you help? Home owners can inspect their properties, remove these plants, and alleviate the burden on the Honorary Rangers thus enabling them to concentrate on park land.

Conserving the soil is also vital. Without nutritious soil the indigenous plants and grasses are unable to grow, allowing weeds to take hold. Sweeping your property encourages soil erosion as heavy rainfall washes soil away. Leaving fallen leaves gives protection from the harsh sun, retains moisture from rain and, as the leaves degrade, adds nutrients to the soil for the future germination of seeds. A cleared area encourages snakes and scorpions to seek shelter closer to your home.

Under the latest legislation, you will be unable to sell your property if it has alien plants on it.

Should you require assistance with identification and/or removal of these plants, please contact Uschi Powell on 072 908 0350. We will also be available at the Easter Fair at the Marlothi Shopping centre.

## Uitheimse Plante

Die Ereveldwagters hou vol met die stryd teen uitheimse plante. Uitheimse plante is plante wat bekendgestel is aan 'n ekosisteem, dikwels vanaf ander lande. Hierdie plante kan skade aan die ekonomie of omgewing veroorsaak en 'n negatiewe effek hê op die gesondheid van mens en/of dier. Uitheimse plante gebruik dikwels baie water, weerstaan droogte en is giftig. Hulle verstik die inheimse plante en sodoende word die beskikbare weiding verminder. Die mees algemene uitheimse plante in Marloth is Parthenium (demoina bossie), Suurturksvy, Begrafplaasblom en Koningin van die Nag.

Hoe kan u help? Huseienaars word versoek om hulle eiendomme te ondersoek en hierdie plante te verwyder. Dit sal die las op die Ereveldwagters verlig en ons in staat stel om te konsentreer op parkland.

Beskerming van die grond is ook noodsaaklik. Sonder voedsame grond is dit nie moontlik vir inheimse plante en grasse om te groei nie, en dit gee die onkruid 'n geleentheid om te vestig. Grondeienaars word ook versoek om nie die eiendom te vee nie, want dit moedig gronderosie aan omdat swaar reënval die grond wegspoel. Die blare wat val beskerm teen die genadelose son, behou vog van reën en soos die blare ontbind bly voedstowwe in die grond agter vir toekomstige ontkieming van sade. 'n Skoongemaakte area moedig slange en skerpioene aan om beskudding nader aan die huis te soek.

Met nuwe wetgewing is dit ook nie meer moontlik om eiendom te verkoop waar uitheimse plante voorkom nie.

Indien grondeienaars hulp nodig het met identifikasie en/of verwydering is hulle welkom om Uschi Powell te kontak by 072 908 0350. Ons sal ook beskikbaar wees tydens die Paasfees kermis by Marlothi Winkelsentrum.