

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Erect biennial or perennial herb commonly 45 to 60 cm high. Primarily associated with disturbed habitats in which it can form dense infestations. In such situations it may be a nuisance to people.	Muyt (2001)	ML
2. Reduce tourism?	During flowering, the plant's presence would be obvious, as would dense patches. It may have a serious impact on the aesthetic of an area. Minor impact – photos taken – soft leaf – no threat		ML
3. Injurious to people?	“Ragwort pollen is believed to produce an allergic reaction in some people but this is not well documented.” “Probably poisonous to humans.” Toxic properties throughout the year. Impact may only occur sometimes of year	P & C (2001) Blood (2001)	MH
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Dense patches would create a moderate visual impact. Negligible		L
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
7. Increase soil erosion?	The plant has perennial roots, slightly fleshy to 15 cm long and many fibrous roots extending deeper into the soil. Not likely to contribute to soil erosion.	P & C (2001)	L
8. Reduce biomass?	Invader replaces biomass.		ML
9. Change fire regime?	“In autumn, the flower stems die back.” Little dry matter remains to establish or support fire. Negligible change to fire risk.	P & C (2001)	L
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Valley grassy forest (V); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Highlands – Southern Fall; VH CLIMATE potential. “Dense infestations develop over disturbed ground, smother other ground-flora and impeding overstorey regeneration.” Major displacement of ground-flora.	Muyt (2001)	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Grassy woodland (D); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Highlands – Southern Fall; VH CLIMATE potential. “Dense infestations develop over disturbed ground, smother other ground-flora and impeding overstorey regeneration.” Major displacement of ground-flora.	Muyt (2001)	MH
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Damp forest (LC); CMA=West Gippsland; Bioreg=Highlands – Southern Fall; VH CLIMATE potential. “Dense infestations develop over disturbed ground, smother other ground-flora and impeding overstorey regeneration.” “Scattered populations occur in shade.” Minor displacement of ground-flora or mid stratum spp.	Muyt (2001)	ML
11. Impact on structure?	“Dense infestations develop over disturbed ground, smother other ground-flora and impeding overstorey regeneration.” Major effect on lower and mid strata. 1 st year affects ground covers, grass not much impact on overstorey impacts.	Muyt (2001)	ML
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

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Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	“When firmly established, ragwort dominates an area almost to the exclusion of all other plants.” “It is mostly found in open, sunny locations.” Reduction in habitat for fauna species. Minor primarily weed of agric land not of native habitat reduction	P & C (2001) Muyt (2001)	ML
15. Benefits fauna?	“Ragwort is poisonous to grazing animals.” No known benefits.	P & C (2001)	H
16. Injurious to fauna?	“Ragwort is poisonous to grazing animals. The plant is more palatable but equally toxic when dry.” Unknown	P & C (2001)	M
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Not known as a food source to pest species.		L
18. Provides harbor?	Not known to provide harbor for pest species. Dense infestations may provide temporary harbor for minor pest species such as rodents.		ML
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	“When firmly established, ragwort dominates an area almost to the exclusion of all other plants and, because it has low grazing value, the production from such areas is considerably reduced.” Serious impact on yield. Not unviable to have stock – 50% reduction but not reduce yield – Ragwort strategy	P & C (2001)	MH
20. Impact quality?	“Whilst ragwort does not generally occur as a crop weed in Australia, it is occasionally found in lucerne in Tasmania. It is also troublesome in lucerne in New Zealand and North America.” Potential contaminant. Produce may not be fit for animal consumption; unable to sell crop. “It is reported from New Zealand and North America that ragwort imparts a taint to honey making it unfit for sale.” Too many assumptions	P & C (2001)	M
21. Affect land value?	The plant’s potential impact on yield may reduce the value of grazing land.	P & C (2001)	M
22. Change land use?	“Some of the land on which it occurs is marginal for agriculture – it is steep, has a short growing period and is prone to competition from pests such as rabbits, blackberry and bracken.” One recommended method of control is afforestation with <i>Pinus radiata</i> . This would lead to a significant change in land use with potential agricultural loss. As dairy area – much more effective to clean ragwort and run dairy cattle	P & C (2001)	ML
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not known to increase harvest costs.		L
24. Disease host/vector?	None evident.		L