Three-cornered Garlic – A Garden plant of bygone days, not for the Park!

Native to north-western Africa and southern Europe.

Three-cornered garlic is a bulb that flowers from August to November.

There are suggestions on the internet that it is used in cooking by some people, but we don’t recommend this! It was once grown as a garden ornamental.

Three-cornered garlic (Allium triquetrum) is a significant environmental weed in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

It is known to have serious impacts on the natural habitats that it invades as is very aggressive, having the potential to rapidly occupy large tracts of land. Three-cornered garlic (Allium triquetrum) forms dense and persistent stands that totally dominate the ground-flora when conditions are suitable.

These stands crowd out and displace the indigenous grasses and groundcovers and can also seriously impede the regeneration of the over-storey vegetation.

It is a common environmental weed of the Adelaide region in south-eastern South Australia and has been recorded in several other conservation areas in this state (e.g. in Marino Conservation Park, Sturt Gorge Recreation Park, Onkaparinga National Park, Belair Reserve, Belair National Park, Anstey Hill Recreation Park and Cleland Conservation Park).

It prefers to grow along creek lines and other damp places.

Don’t confuse Threecornered garlic with Burchardia umbellata (milkmaids) or Calostemma purpureum (garland lily), neither of these smell of garlic.

When removing Three-cornered garlic, ensure the bulbs are removed and crushed.


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