

FERAL PLANTS AND MAN'S IMPACT ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The village of Paluma is completely surrounded by a closed forest type known as tropical rainforest. Most of the rainforest is either National Park or Forest Reserve. All of the rainforest outside of the residential blocks is Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The introduction of feral plants has the potential to affect the biodiversity of this forest.

This worksheet is to be completed in the field. You will allocated a study area in which to work and you will be provided, in groups, with the following references. You may use the information in these to help you complete the activity.

- A set of four (4) laminated cards that give details of twelve (12) feral plants found in Paluma
- A copy/ies of *Weed Pocket Guide - Agricultural and Environmental Weeds of Far North Queensland* published September 2001 by Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Q. 1 What are "feral plants"?

Q. 2 Complete the table below for six feral plants identified in your study site.

Name of Plant	Growing Location	Two Characteristics of Plant	Drawing of Plant
1.			
2.			
3.			

Name of Plant	Growing Location	Two Characteristics of Plant	Drawing of Plant
4.			
5.			
6.			

Q. 3 Suggest two ways feral plants could have been introduced to Paluma

Q. 4 What characteristics do the feral plants have in common with their native plant neighbours?

Q. 5 Generalise the distribution of feral plants founds within your study area.

Q. 6 From an environmentalist's point of view, why should we be concerned about the presence of feral plants in Paluma?
