weedSCAN EXPERT USER GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The WeedScan expert user category is intended to allow people with experience in plant identification to assist in verifying records uploaded to WeedScan by users.

Record verification currently takes place through the WeedScan web application. For information on using the WeedScan web app, please visit the Web App User Guide.

GETTING STARTED

ACCESSING THE WEEDSCAN WEB APP

The WeedScan web app is available online at https://weedscan.org.au/ and is most suited to use on a desktop computer.

PRIVACY POLICY AND TERMS & CONDITIONS

A link to the Privacy Policy and Terms & Conditions is located at the bottom of every page.

REGISTER FOR A WEEDSCAN EXPERT USER ACCOUNT

To register for a WeedScan expert user account, please email weeds@invasives.com.au indicating your interest. Please include information on the following:

1. Your experience in identifying invasive plant species in Australia, or plant species generally. No professional experience is required but applicants should have experience identifying plant species with confidence.
2. Which plant species you are interested in identifying (Ex. species in the family Asteraceae).
3. What regions/local government areas you are interested in identifying records from (Ex. “All of Australia”, “only the ACT”)

Once you have successfully emailed weeds@invasives.com.au with responses to these questions, your account will be upgraded to “expert user”.

RECORD VERIFICATION

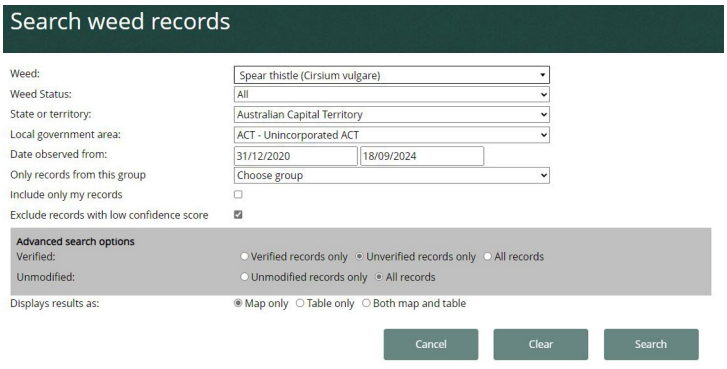
SEARCH WEED RECORDS

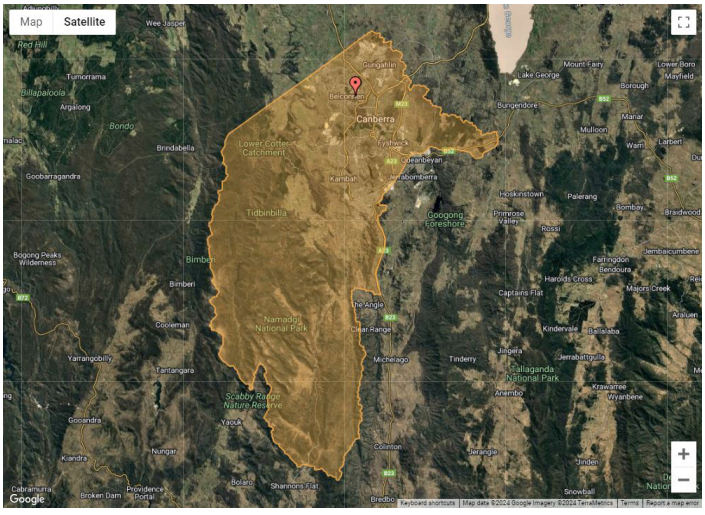
To begin searching for WeedScan records, click on the “Search Weeds” box on the front page of WeedScan. There are a number of filters you can apply to narrow down your search. At least one filter must be applied to prevent WeedScan returning too many records at once.

To search for records of Spear thistle (Cirsium vulgare) in the ACT:

1. Access “Search Weeds” page
2. Click the “Weed:” dropdown menu
3. Type in “Spear thistle” or “Cirsium” and click “Spear thistle (Cirsium vulgare)”
4. Click the “State or territory:” dropdown menu and click “Australian Capital Territory”

   a. Add an LGA to get a zoomed-in view of the local records
5. By default, “exclude records with low confidence score” is selected, unselect this button to also view records with an AI confidence score below 60%
6. Select “Unverified records only” in the “Advanced search options” box if you only wish to view records that have not already been verified
7. Select “Map only”, “Table only”, or “Both map and table”, by default, only the records map is returned
8. Click the search button, the more records you access at once, the longer it will take to load, however it should only take a few seconds even when searching for hundreds of records.
9. Records show up as coloured pins on the map, red pins are unverified records, and green pins are verified records
10. Clicking on a pin will open the record in a new tab
11. To open records from the table view, click the record number to open the record, click the “Close” button on the record page to return to the list of records.





3 observation/s returned.

#	Date seen	Weed	State	LGA
9897	17/09/2024	Top AI Match: Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) (99.845% Confidence)	ACT	Unincorporated ACT
9898	17/09/2024	Top AI Match: Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) (99.932% Confidence)	ACT	Unincorporated ACT
9899	17/09/2024	Top AI Match: Spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) (99.76% Confidence)	ACT	Unincorporated ACT

EDITING RECORDS

You are able to view any record on the platform, however you will only be able to edit records if your account has been enrolled in the location and for the plant species you wish to edit. If you want to change the locations and/or species you can edit records of, reach out to weeds@invasives.com.au

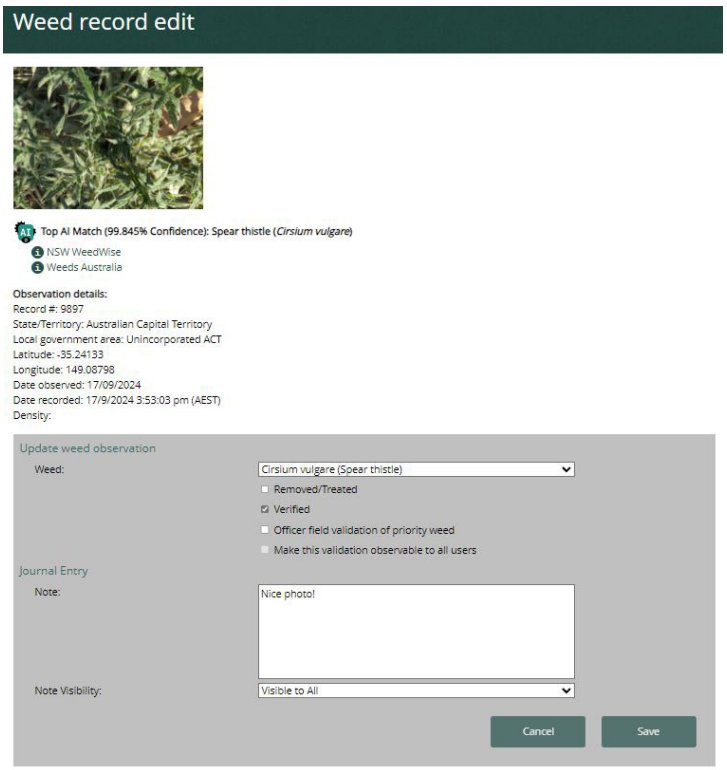
To edit records:

1. Open the record you wish to verify/edit
2. Click “edit”
3. If the image of the species does not match its real identify, click the dropdown menu next to “Weed:”, otherwise, leave this field as is.

a. If the real species is in WeedScan, type in the beginning of the species name while the dropdown menu is open, or scroll through the list and select the species.

b. If the real species is not in WeedScan, begin typing “not in AI model” while the dropdown menu is open, or scroll to the bottom of the species list and click “not in AI model”, then type in the name of the species/group of species. Please try not to add any additional information. It might be useful to also list the common name.

4. If you have removed or treated the weed for which the record was made for, please tick “Removed/ Treated”
5. Click “Verified” once you are satisfied that the existing or edited identity is correct.
6. If you are a field officer and have validated the identify of the species in the record, please tick “Officer field validation of priority weed”
7. If you want to leave a note under the record, please type it in the “Note:” box under “Journal entry”

a. By default notes are publicly viewable, but there are options to restrict who can see the journal entry if needed.

8. Click “Save” button to save your edits and journal entries, otherwise click “Cancel” to prevent any changes from being made.