Pretty plant is a robber in disguise

Don't pick those bright yellow flowers growing on roadsides, is the message from Crows Nest Shire Council.

"It might look pretty, but it is actually an environmental menace," council's natural resource manager Mr Bruce Boyes.

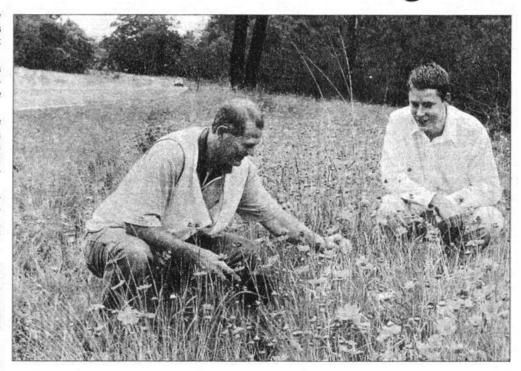
The yellow-flower Coreopsis lanceolate, a native of North America, escaped from gardens into bushland and roadside areas and had become an environmental weed, he said.

"Anyone who picks this flower could contribute to the further spread of this environmental weed and the further loss of our significant bio-diversity."

Crows Nest Shire Council is developing information material that will assist shire residents to identify "bad" garden plants which can become weeds, as well as a range of "good" native plant alternatives.

The "bad" plants list includes privet, camphor laurel, asparagus fern and lantana.

The move is part of a long-term program undertaken by council to control existing environmental weeds in the shire.



'BAD' PLANT: Crows Nest Shire Council officers David Manning (land resources officer) and Nigel Kimball (natural resource management project assistant) survey the growth of the yellov -flower Coreopsis lanceolate, known as the Cemetery Daisy, near the Pechey forestry. Classed as an environmental weed, it robs native flora of a chance to re-establish.

Picture: Jenny Gersekowsk