



AUGUST 2007

MYNA MENACE MAJOR PROBLEM

The Common Myna

a threat to our
wildlife and health



THE MYNA MENACE

BACKGROUND

The Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) was introduced into Australia from South East Asia in 1862 and is now spreading at an alarming rate. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has ranked the Myna amongst the world's 100 most invasive pest species. It has spread through many countries causing human health problems, crop damage and competing with native wildlife.

WHY ARE COMMON MYNA SUCH A PROBLEM SPECIES?

- Mynas are very aggressive and displace native birds such as blue wrens
- Mynas take over tree hollows, chase other birds and possums away, and will even plug up nest sites that they are not using
- Mynas eject the nestlings and eggs of native birds from their nests
- Mynas compete with native fauna for food and habitat adding pressure to local threatened species
- In large numbers the corrosive droppings of mynas cause damage to buildings
- Mynas get into homes take food and leave droppings
- Mynas make nests in rooves bringing in rubbish and mites (bird lice) and clog gutters
- Mynas can spread diseases as they forage through garbage and sewers
- Mynas congregate in large numbers creating disturbing noise levels near homes
- Mynas harass pets and steal their food

The Common Myna (*Acridotheres t*



YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY BE INVOLVED IN:

- Monitoring programs
- Trialling newly developed myna traps
- Conducting education programs
- Cooperating with other government land managers and business owners in joint regional programs
- Providing residents with advice
- Programs to reduce preferred food sources and nest sites – eg bird-proof bins
- Researching better ways to control or discourage common mynas

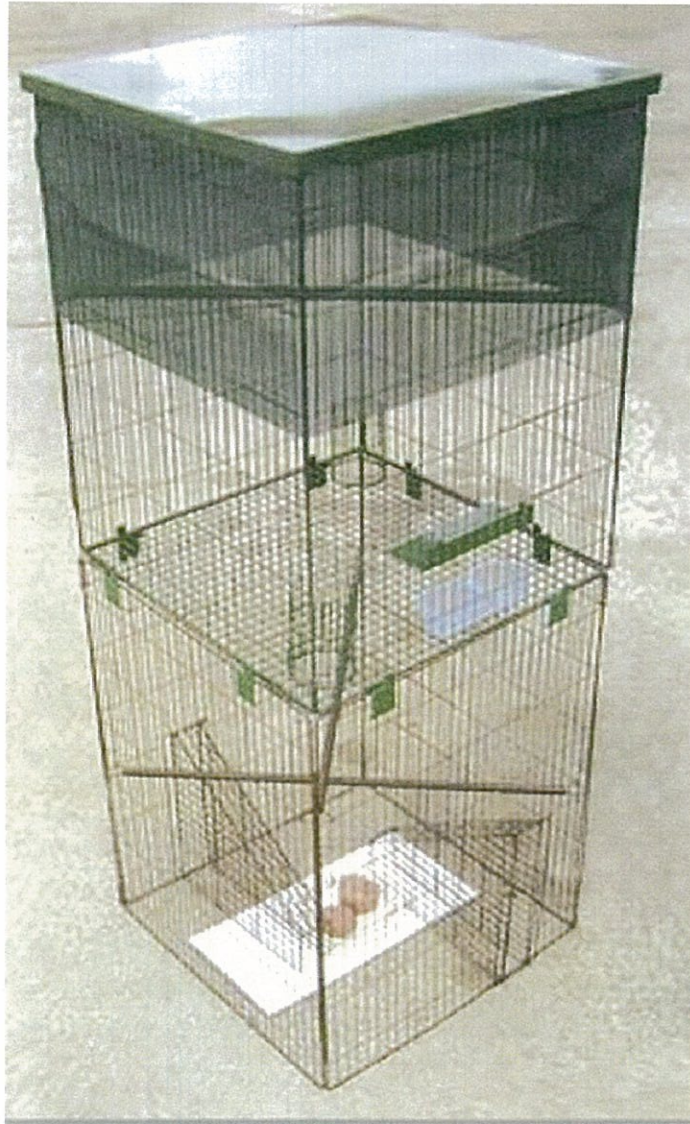
WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT COMMON MYNAS?



NEW OPTIONS

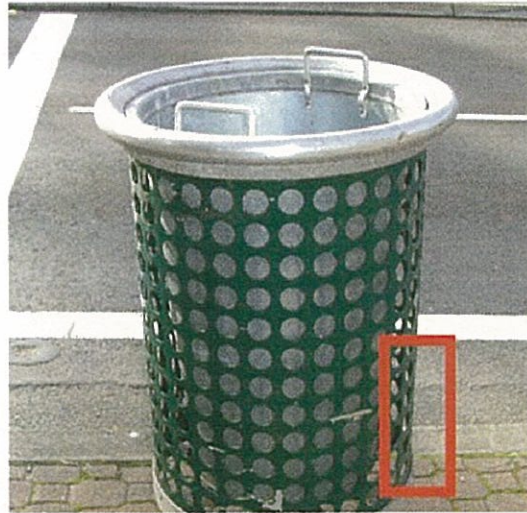
Due to growing concern about this pest a number of Councils and conservation groups have been looking for ways to deal with common mynas. Until recently there was no effective safe or humane method to reduce myna numbers.

However, traps specifically designed to catch live common mynas and starlings developed by the Australian National University (ANU) are now commercially available. Non-target species are easily released unharmed from the trap. Mynas can then be painlessly euthanased with carbon dioxide gas. Traps may soon be available for sale or hire from local or national businesses.



TRAPPING AND MYNA REDUCTION PROGRAMS

The most effective way to control common mynas is to carry out integrated programs, including trapping, deterrents, and food source reduction over regions rather than just locally. Trapping works best during winter months when birds congregate into flocks, and are most effective near feeding areas.



Rubbish bins that prevent birds getting in can help reduce common myna populations by limiting available food supplies

Myna trap developed by the ANU

YOU CAN HELP REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF AND IMPACT OF THIS PEST BY:

- Not leaving food scraps or pet food outdoors
- Closing or covering rubbish bins and other food sources and not feeding birds
- Blocking holes in rooves, gutters and other potential nest sites on your property
- Installing automatic door closers and fly screens to prevent birds entering your house
- Excluding birds from outdoor living areas by installing tightly stretched bird mesh (the knitted type not monofilament for humane reasons)
- Installing bird spikes or other roosting deterrent devices
- Planting local indigenous plants to encourage native species, including dense shrubs to protect small birds
- Lobbying your shopping centre, school or railway station to install bird proof bins or roosting barriers where birds congregate and feed
- Getting involved in programs run by local authorities or community groups to monitor, trap birds or reduce their food sources
- Don't plant potential roosting trees such as Canary Island Palms that have dense foliage and roosting nooks
- Remove myna nests from nest boxes and hollows so native birds and mammals can use them



Native Noisy Miner

Introduced Common Myna



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

For more information about common mynas or to find out what is happening in your area contact your local authority

Ku-ring-gai Council	9424 0770
Warringah Council	9942 2111
Willoughby Council	9777 1000
Hornsby Council	9847 6666
Ryde Council	9952 8222
Mosman Council	9978 4000
Lane Cove Council	9911 3555
Manly Council	9976 1500
Pittwater Council	9970 1111
North Sydney Council	9936 8100
Parramatta Council	98065000
Baulkham Hills Council	9843 0555
National Parks and Wildlife Service (DECC) Sydney North Region	9472 8949

CONTACTS



Further Information

Common Indian Myna Website (ANU)
<http://sres.anu.edu.au/associated/myna>
Central Coast Indian Myna Action Group
www.ccimag.asn.au

Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre
www.invasiveanimals.com

Mynamagnet Australia
<http://www.mynamagnet.com.au>

Indian myna eradication program
www.indianmynaeradication.com

Note

That this is not an endorsement for these websites, they are provided for information only

Acknowledgements

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