

# Weeds

## REDUCING THEIR IMPACT IN THE NORTHERN AND YORKE NRM REGIONS



### What are weeds and why are they a problem?

Weeds or pest plants are introduced plants that have become invasive or overabundant. This affects productivity, biodiversity and the health of natural ecosystems and the health and wellbeing of communities.

Plants that have been "declared" under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and non-declared plants that impact on agriculture, biodiversity and communities are considered pest plants in the region. Many pest plants have been introduced into the region both intentionally and unintentionally.

Pest plants can include:

- Exotic/ introduced plants that are well adapted to the environment and have flourished in local conditions
- Non local native species which have spread and become overabundant

Control of the following pest plants is important in the region (NB this is not a definite list of pest plants for the region)

- African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)
- Bathurst burr (*Xanthium spinosum*)
- Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)
- Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*)

- Cape tulip (*Homeria flaccida* and *Homeria miniata*)
- Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*)
- Prickly pear and Wheel cactus (*Opuntia* spp)
- Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)
- Salvation Jane (*Echium plantagineum*)
- White weeping broom (*Ratama raetam*)
- Wild artichoke (*Cynara cardunculus*)

### What is their impact?

Impacts of pest plants may include:

- Economic costs such as crop yield reductions and increased control and management costs
- Stock injuries, illnesses and death from poisonous plants
- Loss of bio diversity and ecosystem functioning through out-competing native plants for moisture and light
- Increased fire risk and potential change in fire behaviour



Natural Resources  
Northern & Yorke



Government  
of South Australia

## What can you do?

The *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* sets out the following responsibilities for landholders:

1. Landholders are required to effectively control all declared pests present on their property in accordance with the Board's regional pest policies.
2. Declared pests cannot be introduced, moved or sold in the region. Landholders must take care with produce, stock and machinery to prevent the spread of declared pests.
3. The Board will ensure that declared pests are controlled on roadsides and may recover the control costs from the adjoining landholder.

**Failure to meet the above responsibilities may result in formal action.**

Best practice weed control involves:

- Knowing the weed – ensure accurate identification and target your control to the specific biology of the weed
- Consider an integrated control program that uses chemical, mechanical and biological methods
- Select the least toxic chemical for the job and ensure that label instructions are followed
- Select a chemical that is targeted for the particular weed so that other desirable plants can grow and out-compete the weed
- Spray when weeds are small so that less chemicals are used
- Monitor effectiveness to ensure all weeds have been killed and always follow up after initial treatment to control any new germination

Seek further advice and details from Natural Resources Northern and Yorke.



## Pest plants – whose responsibility?

Pest plants don't recognise property boundaries. By working collaboratively, Natural Resources Northern and Yorke and landholders have the best chance of controlling priority pest plants.

### On private land:

Landholders have a legal responsibility, under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, to control declared plants on their land.

### On roadside reserves:

Roadsides are part of public road reserves, which are owned by the Crown. Under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, regional NRM boards are responsible for the control of declared pest plants on roadside reserves.

Landholders have the opportunity to control declared plants on road reserves adjoining their property. Where control work is undertaken by the local board, an account may be issued to landholders.

Before undertaking control work on road reserves, landholders should contact the Natural Resource Centre to determine if any approvals are required. Care should also be taken to avoid any off-target damage to native vegetation.

### Natural Resources Northern and Yorke can provide the following support to landholders:

- A free weed identification service
- Advice about the most appropriate management method for pest plants on their property.

## For more information

### Natural Resources Centre Northern and Yorke

155 Main North Road, Clare SA 5453

T 08 8841 3400 | F 08 8841 3411

E [DEWNR.NRNY@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWNR.NRNY@sa.gov.au)

W [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke)

Hours Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

### Control Techniques

Biosecurity SA Weed Control Handbook

[www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa)

South Australian Weed Control App  
available from your App store (free)

Weed Management Guides for WoNS weeds  
[www.weeds.org.au/WoNS](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS)



Natural Resources  
Northern & Yorke



Government  
of South Australia