



Declared Plant Policy

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of plants that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.

rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)

Rubber vine is a tropical liana from monsoonal rainforests of Madagascar, and does not grow wild in South Australia. It is one of the thirty-two Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions.

Item 2.1.1 of the national strategy on rubber vine calls for the prohibition of propagation, cultivation and sale of rubber vine throughout Australia. In line with the strategy, sale of rubber vine plants and seed is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions.

Management Plan for Rubber Vine

Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance

Objectives

- Prevent any supply of rubber vine by growers in South Australia to other jurisdictions where it is an invasive weed.

Best Practice Implementation

- Compliance action in the event of rubber vine plants being produced in South Australia for sale.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Prohibit sale and road transport
Eyre Peninsula	Prohibit sale and road transport
Green Adelaide	Prohibit sale and road transport
Hills and Fleurieu	Prohibit sale and road transport
Kangaroo Island	Prohibit sale and road transport
Limestone Coast	Prohibit sale and road transport
Murraylands and Riverland	Prohibit sale and road transport
Northern and Yorke	Prohibit sale and road transport
South Australian Arid Lands	Prohibit sale and road transport

Declaration

To implement this policy, rubber vine is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its entry to South Australia, movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

Rubber vine is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry, sale or road transport can only be issued by the regional landscape board or Green Adelaide pursuant to section 197.

Under the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Regulation 27 specifies the conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 186 and may transport wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying rubber vine on public roads, or bring them into the State. Regulation 28 specifies conditions under which a person is exempt from the operation of section 188(2) and may sell wool, grain or other produce or goods carrying rubber vine. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water.

The following sections of the Act apply to rubber vine throughout each of the regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region								
	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
186(1) Prohibiting entry to area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
190 Requiring notification of presence									
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties									
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves									

Review

Success of the program will be measured by its effectiveness in preventing any reported supply of rubber vine from South Australia to other States and Territories. This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, or in the event of a change in the status of rubber vine as a Weed of National Significance.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Rubber vine is dispersed by its abundant seed, which is carried by water while still in the pods, or by wind after it is shed. It spreads primarily in the gaps in the forest canopy along waterways, where the seeds germinate in moist silt layers after rain.

Impacts

Rubber vine invades and displaces native woodland and vine thicket vegetation in the moist tropics. Due to its habit as a large twining vine it can cover shrubs and trees to form a dense canopy that excludes all native regeneration. Infestations expand outward by short-range seed dispersal, colonising flood plains, pastures and hillsides.

Potential Distribution

Rubber vine requires an annual rainfall of 400 to 1400 mm, either uniformly wet or with a winter dry season. The southerly limit of its range is in northern New South Wales. It is not frost hardy, and would need glasshouse protection to grow in South Australia.

Feasibility of Containment

No production nursery in this State is growing rubber vine as there is no demand for this plant in our Mediterranean-type climate.

Current distribution

Rubber vine is not naturalised in South Australia.

State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Native vegetation	negligible 0	very high 0	monitor

Considerations

Rubber vine was introduced to tropical Australia as an ornamental in the mid 19th century, and was often planted around mining settlements. It was cultivated during WW2 for use as a rubber substitute. In Queensland, infestations are now found throughout the river systems and floodplain areas of southern Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria, and south along the coast to the Burnett River. Isolated infestations have been recorded and subsequently controlled as far south as Gatton, south-west to Charleville, Longreach and Blackall, and as far west as the Kimberly region in Western Australia. No rubber vine has been recorded in the Northern Territory; however, there are infestations near the Northern Territory – Queensland border.

Rubber vine is one of the Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions. In line with the national strategy on rubber vine, sale of the plant and its seed is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions. The declaration of rubber vine under the Act is intended to prevent any possibility of a wholesaler producing rubber vine plants in South Australia for supply to those parts of Australia where it is weedy.

rubber vine policy

Although rubber vine has attractive flowers, it has no commercial value, and could only be grown in heated glasshouses in South Australia. There is no likelihood of the nursery industry in this State wishing to produce it.

Synonymy

Cryptostegia grandiflora Roxb. ex R.Br., Bot. Reg. 5: t. 435. (1819).

Other common names include indiarubber vine, liane de gatope and palay rubbervine.

References

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand Australia & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers (2001) 'Weeds of National Significance Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) Strategic Plan.' (National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee: Launceston).

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

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