



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.

Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

Senegal tea is a tall herbaceous perennial that grows in shallow water of stream edges and wetlands. It is naturalised in the eastern States but has not been found in South Australia.

Management Plan for Senegal Tea

Outcomes

- To maintain waterways free of blockages and keep streams and wetlands free of major weed threats.

Objectives

- Prevent introduction of Senegal tea to waterways and wetlands.
- Destroy any infestations as they occur.

Best Practice Implementation

- Any infestation of Senegal tea discovered to be treated as an incursion and destroyed.
- To prevent introduction or spread, any sale and movement to be prohibited.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to inspect waterways and wetlands for presence of aquatic weeds.

Regional implementation

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Eyre Peninsula	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Green Adelaide	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Hills and Fleurieu	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Kangaroo Island	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Limestone Coast	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Murraylands and Riverland	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
Northern and Yorke	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected
South Australian Arid Lands	Prevent entry or sale; destroy if detected

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Declaration

To implement this policy, Senegal tea 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. Notification of infestations is necessary to ensure these are destroyed. Land owners are required to destroy any Senegal tea plants growing on their properties. Landscape boards and Green Adelaide are required to destroy plants on road reserves in their regions, and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Senegal tea is declared in category 1 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 Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water or their delegate 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 Senegal tea 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 Senegal tea. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to Senegal tea 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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025 or in the event of Senegal tea being found established as a weed in South Australia.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Senegal tea spreads by seed, which can be wind blown or float on water, and may sometimes attach to animals or machinery. Vegetative spread may also cover significant distances when stem fragments are carried by water.

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Impacts

Senegal tea grows rapidly to form dense thickets on wet soils, or can float on still or slow-moving fresh water. It displaces native flora, with broader effects on local biodiversity through providing less habitat for native animals. It can block waterways, affecting recreational activities, irrigation and navigation.

Potential distribution

In South Australia, Senegal tea is a potential weed along the River Murray wetlands, and streams in the highest rainfall parts of the State.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

As all or most of the foliage is above water level, Senegal tea can be controlled by nonselective knockdown herbicides such as glyphosate. However, this control method is labour-intensive and may be limited by risks of off-target damage to native species. Digging is used to remove spot infestations.

Persistence

Control actions may need to be repeated for more than two years because of regrowth from underwater stem bases and suckers.

Current distribution

Not present 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
Aquatic	medium 51	very high 0	contain spread alert

Considerations

Senegal tea is native to South America and Mexico, and is believed to have a wide climate tolerance. It was introduced into Australia from India around 1975, and first recorded as growing in the wild in the Manning River near Taree, New South Wales in 1980.

It is still restricted to isolated outbreaks in parts of eastern Australia, including south-eastern Queensland, the central and northern coast of NSW, and central Victoria at Lake Nagambie. Due to its medium weed risk, absence from the State and very high feasibility of control, Senegal tea is regarded as a State Alert Weed and a high priority surveillance target to increase the likelihood of early detection.

Synonymy

Gymnocoronis spilanthoides (D.Don ex Hook. & Arn.) DC., Prodr.(DC.) 7: 266 (1838).

Basionym:

Alomia spilanthoides D.Don ex Hook. & Arn. Companion Bot. Mag. 1: 238 (1836)

Taxonomic synonym:

Gymnocoronis attenuata DC., Prodr.(DC.) 5: 106 (1836)

Gymnocoronis subcordata DC., Prodr.(DC.) 5: 106 (1836)

Other common names include temple plant and spade leaf plant.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021