



Government
of South Australia

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.

desert ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

Desert ash is a deciduous tree that has been widely planted in South Australia and is now naturalised in some high-rainfall areas.

Management Plan for Desert Ash

Outcomes

- Protect native vegetation from further invasion by desert ash.

Objectives

- Achieve control of existing desert ash infestations that threaten priority native vegetation in the control area.
- Prevent further spread of desert ash within the Kangaroo Island region.

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards in the control area and Green Adelaide to record and monitor desert ash infestations near priority sites.
- These boards to organise control of desert ash infestations in or near priority native vegetation and riparian sites, with enforcement actions as necessary.
- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to enforce the prohibition on sale of desert ash.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

desert ash policy

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Limited action
Green Adelaide	Protect sites
Hills and Fleurieu	Protect sites
Kangaroo Island	Contain spread
Limestone Coast	Manage weed
Murraylands and Riverland	Limited action
Northern and Yorke	Limited action
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

Declaration

To implement this policy, desert ash is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Sale is prohibited throughout the State. The Hills and Fleurieu, and Kangaroo Island Landscape Boards and Green Adelaide may require land owners to control desert ash plants growing on their land. These authorities are required to control plants on road reserves in their regions and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

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

The following sections of the Act apply to desert ash 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										
186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads										
188(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods										
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			X	X	X					
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves			X	X	X					

Declaration does not include the cultivar *Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood', known as claret ash.

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for desert ash.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Each desert ash tree produces a large amount of seed which is dispersed short distances by wind and may be carried further by water. It also sends out suckers that can form dense thickets.

Impacts

Desert ash can form dense thickets that may become impenetrable, and exclude native regeneration. As with other deciduous trees growing along streams, the leaf fall of desert ash in autumn produces a sudden flush of nutrients that reduces water quality.

Potential distribution

Desert ash requires at least 450 mm annual rainfall, providing a reliable water supply while it is in leaf from early spring to autumn. It tolerates a range of soils including moderately calcareous ones. It is likely to be restricted to stream banks and gullies in the higher rainfall regions of South Australia.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Large trees are expensive to remove, but hazardous to simply poison and leave standing. The size of mature desert ash makes them difficult to control and remove in both native vegetation and riparian situations.

General tree-killing herbicides are registered for use but there are no selective herbicide treatments.

Persistence

Desert ash trees are likely to be long-lived, regenerate by seed or stump shoots and to form permanent stands that prevent the unaided establishment of native trees.

Current distribution

Naturalised in settled areas of South Australia south of Port Augusta, mainly in towns but invading native vegetation in the Adelaide Hills and lower Limestone Coast. On Kangaroo Island it is restricted to two sites at Hogs Bay Road and Kingscote.

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	low 16	high 16	monitor

Considerations

Desert ash is native to Mediterranean Europe and south west Asia, where it occurs in deciduous scrub and forest, including rocky places, floodplains and streams.

Risk assessment indicates a management action at State level of monitoring in native vegetation. However, the local weed risk of desert ash in high rainfall areas is higher, up to 152 in the Hills and Fleurieu region where a strategy of protecting high priority sites is justified. The Kangaroo Island region aims to contain spread since it is localised there. The Limestone Coast region has a strategy of management but does not require enforced control. In other regions, action is limited to enforcing the prohibition on sale.

The cultivar *Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood' is an iconic South Australian tree that does not spread from seed.

Synonymy

Fraxinus angustifolia Vahl, Enum. Pl. [Vahl] 1: 52. 1804

Taxonomic synonyms:

Fraxinus oxycarpa Willd., Sp. Pl. 4: 1100 (1806).

Fraxinus persica Boiss., Diagn. Pl. Orient. 11: 78 (1849).

Fraxinus rotundifolia Mill., Gard. Dict., ed. 8. n. 2. 1768

Fraxinus syriaca Boiss., Diagn. Pl. Orient. 11: 77 (1849).

Fraxinus angustifolia includes several subspecies in its native range which have sometimes been treated as species. All subspecies, including *oxycarpa*, are included in the declaration.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

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