



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.

ornamental asparagus (*Asparagus africanus*)

Ornamental asparagus is a summer-growing scrambling perennial vine similar to bridal creeper. It is a casual garden escape in South Australia, but a significant invader of native vegetation in the eastern States and so is classed as a Weed of National Significance.

Management Plan for Ornamental Asparagus

Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance.

Objectives

- No supply of ornamental asparagus by growers or retailers in South Australia.

Best Practice Implementation

- Sale and movement of ornamental asparagus is prohibited in South Australia.
- Compliance action in the event that ornamental asparagus is offered for sale in South Australia.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

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

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Declaration

To implement this policy, ornamental asparagus is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the State of South Australia to prevent any further planting, sale and movement. Its entry to the State, movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

It is declared in category 2 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry, road transport or sale 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 ornamental asparagus 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 ornamental asparagus. 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 ornamental asparagus throughout each of the regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region								
	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MIR	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

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for ornamental asparagus or a change in its status as a Weed of National Significance.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Ornamental asparagus is dispersed by seeds produced in berries that are eaten by many species of native and introduced birds. They establish readily among undisturbed native vegetation in suitable climates.

Impacts

Ornamental asparagus is a climbing plant that can compete with native vegetation in suitable climates. Unlike bridal creeper, it does not have a summer dormant period and so is not a significant invader of native vegetation in South Australia.

Potential distribution

Ornamental asparagus is a significant weed in moist subtropical climates in eastern Australia. In South Australia it is a casual garden escape of high rainfall areas, persisting in abandoned gardens and where it has been dumped with garden waste.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Control by herbicides is labour-intensive and results in some off-target damage occurs but may be used to protect high value sites.

Persistence

Ornamental asparagus can maintain itself indefinitely in suitable climates, regenerating readily from rhizomes unless killed by prolonged drought. Its seeds are relatively short lived and do not form large seed banks in the soil under an infestation.

Current distribution

Ornamental asparagus is not recorded as 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 for native vegetation:

Species	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	medium 77	very high 0	contain spread

Considerations

Asparagus africanus is a traditional garden plant that is not now marketed commercially.

Synonymy

Asparagus africanus Lam., Encycl. 1: 295 (1783).

Nomenclatural synonym:

Protasparagus africanus (Lam.) Oberm., S. African J. Bot. 2: 243 (1983).

Taxonomic synonyms:

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Asparagopsis scoparia Kunth, Enum. Pl. 5: 85 (1850).

Asparagus cooperi Baker, Gard. Chron. n.s., 1: 818 (1874).

Asparagus multiflorus Baker, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 14: 610 (1875).

Protasparagus multiflorus (Baker) Oberm., S. African J. Bot. 2: 244 (1983).

Other common names include asparagus fern and climbing asparagus.

References

National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee (2006) *Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Manual*. (Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation: Adelaide).

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021