



DECLARED PLANT

ALISMA

Alisma lanceolatum

Alisma is an emergent, aquatic perennial with large broad leaves and herbaceous flowering stems from short, underwater rhizomes.

Alisma is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. Its sale is prohibited, and control may be enforced in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM regions.

Other common names: narrow-leaved water plantain.

Family: *Alismataceae*.

Origin: native to Europe and Asia. Introduced to Australia in the 19th century and was established in the Onkaparinga River system by 1900, later in some reservoirs and streams in the Adelaide Hills. *Alisma lanceolatum* is very similar to a native species that is known as *Alisma plantago-aquatica*.

DESCRIPTION

Habit: Tufted perennial herb to 150 cm tall, evergreen in permanent water or going dormant in late summer in drier sites.

Rootstock: A short rhizome to 5 cm wide.

Leaves: Hairless, bright green, with narrow, net-veined, pointed oval blade to 25 cm long tapering into a stalk 5-50 cm long above water level.

Flowers: Numerous, stalked in groups of 2-5 forming a loosely branched panicle to 120 cm long. Petals 3, almost circular, white to pale pink, 4-6 mm long. Stamens 6, in pairs opposite the petals.

Flowering time: December to January.

Fruits: One-seeded, 10-20 per flower, each 2-3 mm long, green, flattened with a short beak.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

In other parts of the world dense stands of alisma have interfered with stream flow by occupying bare mud, and also reduced biodiversity by excluding other vegetation. There is concern that it could do this in some freshwater habitats in South Australia. Due to its similarity to the native *Alisma plantago-aquatica* it could displace this species from its habitats.



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HOW IT SPREADS

Alisma reproduces by seeds, which are produced in numerous single-seeded fruits. These float on water and move readily downstream; they can be carried longer distances on the feet of waterbirds. Seedlings that germinate on wet mud may become established before the water level rises again by forming perennial clumps that proliferate from the base. Unlike sagittaria, it does not have stolons that spread the clumps, but regenerates in situ from the rhizome.

HABITAT

Alisma grows in water to 45 cm deep, occupying a zone between the channel bank and taller aquatic plants that grow in deeper permanent water.

DISTRIBUTION

Alisma is found at a few localities in the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula, including Mylor and Happy Valley Reservoir and is widespread in the Onkaparinga River catchment. However, it is still less common than the native *Alisma plantago-aquatica*. Also naturalised in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you find this alisma species on your land.

Weed control information is available at: pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

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