



DECLARED PLANT

DUNE ONION WEED

Trachyandra divaricata

Dune onion weed is a sandbinding perennial of coastal dunes, able to establish pure stands and toxic to livestock.

Dune onion weed 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 NRM region.

Other common names: branched onion weed, strap weed, trachyandra.

Family: *Asphodelaceae*

Synonyms: *Anthericum divaricatum*.

Origin: coast of South Africa. Dune onion weed may have been introduced to Australia in the ballast of ships.

DESCRIPTION

Habit: Tufted perennial herb.

Leaves: Linear, to 60 cm long and 8 mm wide, hairless, fleshy, bright green, surrounded at base by tubular scales.

Inflorescence: Panicle to 80 cm high, with widely spreading branches and small membranous bracts.

Flowers: produced winter to late spring. Flowers have a stalk, with 6 white tepals to 14 mm long, with a thick green stripe and a yellow spot at base, shrinking around the fruit; stamens 6 in two rows.

Fruit: Capsule almost globe-shaped to ovoid, to 1 cm long.

Seeds: tetrahedral, c. 1.5 mm long, brown, smooth, up to 36 per capsule.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Dune onion weed can rapidly replace native plants on dunes, reducing diversity and eventually forming a monoculture on front dunes. It can be toxic to cattle and other livestock if grazed, causing photosensitisation.



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HOW IT SPREADS

Dune onion weed reproduces by seed. Dried-out inflorescences with seed capsules can break off and are blown as tumbleweeds along the dunes, scattering the seeds. They can also float, and seeds may still germinate after several months in sea water. It has also been spread inadvertently as a contaminant in seed of native plants used for revegetation.

HABITAT

Dune onion weed invades coastal vegetation on dunes, and may encroach into pastures on sandy soils behind the dunes.

DISTRIBUTION

Found on the east coast of Eyre Peninsula, and at some suburban beaches between Taperoo and Port Noarlunga. Also naturalised in Western Australia.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this weed. Beware of bringing new weeds to your property with fodder or stock.

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

Images: Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges

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