

DECLARED PLANT

Dolichos pea *Dipogon lignosus*

January 2015

Dolichos pea is a vigorous, twining climber with a woody base, bearing mauve or white flowers. It has been used as an ornamental garden plant.

It is now declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, with prohibition on sale and movement throughout South Australia and enforced control in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and South East NRM regions.

- **Other common names:** mile-a-minute, common dipogon, chookhouse vine, dunny vine, okie bean, purple dolichos.
- **Family:** Fabaceae
- **Synonyms:** *Dolichos lignosus*, *Verdcourtia lignosa*
- **Origin:** South Africa.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Dolichos pea invades native vegetation, sometimes forming a monoculture.

- smothers native plant, including trees, with its dense, heavy foliage
- as a nitrogen fixing plant, it can increase soil fertility, allowing other weeds to establish





DESCRIPTION

Habit: perennial vine with twining stems growing to 3 m long. **Leaves:** alternate, compound, consisting of 3 broad diamond-shaped leaflets 3-9 x 1-7 cm, (the centre leaf usually larger). **Stems:** wiry, rounded or compressed, and woody at the base, reaching 10 cm in diameter. **Flowers:** clusters of pink-purple or white flowers up to 25 cm in length. Individual flowers are around 1.5 cm long. *Flowering time:* Sept - Jan **Fruit:** smooth, sickle-shaped pods to 5 cm long and 1 cm wide **Seeds:** brown or black with a conspicuous white spot.

HOW IT SPREADS

Seed of Dolichos pea spreads are catapulted short distances by explosive pods. It can then be moved further by ants. Seed germination is stimulated by fire. Dolichos pea spreads vegetatively by rhizomes and layering and can be spread by garden waste dumping and water.

HABITAT

Dolichos pea is a weed of coastal habitats, riparian zones, heathland, roadsides, disturbed and waste sites, woodlands and forests.

DISTRIBUTION

Dolichos pea occurs in the Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Southern Lofty, Kangaroo Island and South East regions. It is also naturalised in Queensland, New South Wales, Norfolk Island, Victoria and Tasmania.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this weed. Select alternatives to replace invasive garden plants. Read 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions.

Images courtesy Peter Swart, <http://www.plantweb.co.za/> and Corey Jackson, Natural Resources AMLR



For more information

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

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Further weed control information is also available at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

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