

# DECLARED PLANTS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ARE THEY ON YOUR LAND?

There are over 137 declared plants in South Australia. See inside for 72 plants that are either more commonly encountered, or are newly emerging threats.



## Grasslike plants

**African feathergrass**  
*Pennisetum macrourum*



**Competes with pastures, fire hazard**  
Perennial grass forming large, dense tussocks with long, slender flower heads.

**African lovegrass**  
*Eragrostis curvula*



**Competes with pastures**  
Perennial grass with grey-green, spreading flower heads. Curled leaf tips.

**buffel grass**  
*Cenchrus ciliaris*,  
*Cenchrus pennisetiformis*



**Invades rangeland vegetation, excludes native species, fire hazard**  
Perennial tussock grass. Seed heads form a dense, hairy cylindrical spike.

**Chilean needlegrass**  
*Nassella neesiana*



**Invades pastures and bushland, sharp seeds**  
Small perennial tussock grass. Purplish flowering heads. Seeds with an awn, surrounded at its base by a crown of bristles. Also declared: Stipoid grasses including Texas needlegrass (*N. leucotricha*)

**Coolatai grass**  
*Hyparrhenia hirta*



**Fire hazard, invades pastures and bushland**  
Large perennial grass. V-shaped pairs of spikelets on branched flowering stems.

**fountain grass**  
*Cenchrus setaceus*



**Invades pastures and bushland**  
Perennial tussock grass. Grey-green leaves. Long flower spikes with dull purple bristles.

**innocent weed**  
*Cenchrus incertus*,  
*Cenchrus longispinus*



**Competes with irrigated crops, burrs injure animals**  
Small annual summer-growing grasses. Soft leaves. Flower heads of sharp-spined burrs.

**Mexican feathergrass**  
*Nassella tenuissima*



**Competes with pastures, spiny seeds**  
Perennial. Thin, tightly rolled, finely serrated leaves. Recently sold by nurseries under various names.

## Shrub and tree

**African boxthorn**  
*Lycium ferocissimum*



**Forms prickly thickets in native vegetation and pasture**  
Large shrub. Light green fleshy leaves. Flowers are white with purple blotches. Round red berries. Stems are much branched, rigid, and spine-tipped.

**Aleppo pine**  
*Pinus halepensis*



**Invades native vegetation**  
Large spreading tree. Branches have silvery bark, narrow grey-green needles in pairs, and smooth reddish brown cones.

**athel pine**  
*Tamarix aphylla*



**Excludes native plants along watercourses**  
Large tree with weeping branches. Grey-green shoots have tiny scale leaves that exude salt. Flowers small, pale pink.

**berry heath**  
*Erica baccans*



**Invades bushland**  
Shrub with fine green leaves and small globular pink flowers.

**boneseed**  
*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

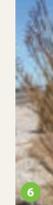


**Invades bushland, displaces native plants**  
Woody erect shrub. Broad bright green, waxy leaves with some white down. Yellow daisy flower heads. Green-black berries.

**Cape broom**  
*Genista monspessulana*



**Invades bushland, fire hazard**  
Erect, evergreen leguminous shrub. Leaves with three downy leaflets. Yellow pea flowers in clusters. Short hairy pods with hard, round seeds.



**Fire hazard, invades pastures and bushland**



**Invades pastures and bushland**



**Competes with irrigated crops, burrs injure animals**



**Competes with pastures, spiny seeds**

**desert ash**  
*Fraxinus angustifolia*



**Invades native vegetation along streams**  
Deciduous tree. Leaves in opposite pairs, pinnate with 3-9 leaflets. Flat, winged single-seeded fruits.

**dog rose**  
*Rosa canina*



**Forms prickly thickets, invades pasture**  
Large deciduous shrub. Erect or scrambling with prickly stems and leaves. Scented pale pink flowers. Red fruits (hips). Distinguished from sweet briar by smooth flower stalks and fruit.

**English/Scotch broom**  
*Cytisus scoparius*



**Invades bushland, fire hazard**  
Erect, summer-deciduous, woody leguminous shrub. Green, ridged stems becoming leafless. Large yellow pea flowers.

**European blackberry**  
*Rubus fruticosus* sp. agg.



**Invades bushland and pastures, forms impenetrable thickets**  
Scrambling perennial. White or pink flowers followed by berries ripening to black. Leaves have 3-5 leaflets, short prickles on underside. Long stems/canes carry numerous prickles.

**flaxleaf broom**  
*Genista linifolia*



**Invades bushland, fire hazard**  
Erect, evergreen leguminous shrub. Soft, hairy, ribbed stems. Leaves with three downy leaflets. Yellow pea flowers in clusters. Short hairy pods with hard, round seeds.

**gorse**  
*Ulex europaeus*



**Forms spiny thickets, competes with pasture and native vegetation**  
Spiny, densely branched woody leguminous shrub. Leaves small, on green spine-like twigs. Large, yellow pea flowers. Oblong hairy pods contain hard round seeds.

## Declared plants and you...

Every landowner in South Australia has legal responsibilities to manage **declared plants**. These are plants that are regulated under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. Declared plants are significant weed threats to our State's primary production industries, natural environments and public safety.

Plants may be declared under various sections of the NRM Act, relating to:

**Movement** – Some declared plants must not be moved on a public road (e.g. as a cutting, seed or potted specimen). Inadvertent movement of the plant on animals, soil, vehicles, machinery or produce may also be illegal.

**Sale** – Most declared plants must not be sold at any outlet including nurseries, pet shops and market stalls. Sale of any animal, soil, vehicle, machinery or produce contaminated with these plants is also illegal.

**Notification** – The presence and locations of some declared plants on your own land must be reported to the NRM group Biosecurity Unit or your regional NRM office Natural Resources Centre.

**Control** – As a landowner you are required to take action to destroy or control many declared plant species present on your property, regardless of whether it is used as a business, residence or for other purposes. NRM authorities also control certain declared plants on road reserves and can recover costs of control from the adjoining landowners.

Find out what provisions of the NRM Act apply to each declared plant in your area by contacting your regional NRM office. Information is online at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds\\_and\\_pest\\_animals/plant\\_pests\\_in\\_south\\_australia](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/plant_pests_in_south_australia)

## State Alert weeds

Plants indicated in **red** are State Alerts – if you see one of these plants then please report it immediately to your nearest Natural Resources Centre.

## Five tips for successful weed control

- 1 Prevention is cheap** – Insist that vehicles, machinery, livestock and produce coming onto your property do not carry weed seeds. Report sales of declared plants. Pay particular attention to Alert Weeds, which have yet to become established in South Australia.
- 2 Find weeds early** – Get to know plants on your property and quickly identify and deal with new threats.
- 3 Watch your spread** – Take measures to contain weed infestations and prevent further seed dispersal across your property.
- 4 Plan your controls** – Obtain information about managing your target weed. Map the area you need to treat. Treat weeds when they are young. Use the recommended control method. Use selective herbicides where possible. Minimise damage to non-weeds. Establish and promote competing vegetation.
- 5 Persistence, persistence** – Continue follow-up treatments for as many years as necessary. Some plants may have been missed, some may have survived treatment and new seedlings may emerge.

### Identification key:

■ State Alert weeds

### Photo credits key:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Blewett, David   | 9 Imhof, Mark   |
| 2 Blood, Kate  | 10 Meyer, Thomas  |
| 3 Ciesla, William M. Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org | 11 Michelmore, Peter  |
| 4 Dean, Julie  | 12 Powell, Dave USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org                |
| 5 Gaeti  | 13 Queensland Government  |
| 6 Gillen, Paul   | 14 Roberts, Grant   |
| 7 Grech, Charles   | 15 Salguero, Alberto  |
| 8 Harvey, Adrian RSSA  | 16 Schwartz, Howard F. Colorado State University, Bugwood.org   |
|  | 17 Shepherd, Ben  |
|  | 18 Starr, Forest & Kim  |
|  | 19 <a href="http://www.weedinfo.com.au">www.weedinfo.com.au</a> |
|  | 20 Xemenedura   |

**nutgrass**  
*Cyperus rotundus*



**Invades pastures, crops and gardens, very hard to kill**  
Perennial sedge to 60 cm with many tubers, shiny dark-green leaves.

**pampas grasses**  
*Cortaderia* spp.



**Invade bushland, displace native species, fire hazard**  
Giant perennial tussock grasses. Leaves tough, grey-green with sharp, serrated edges. Tall, fluffy flower spikes, may be pinkish at first, fading to white.

**serrated tussock**  
*Nassella trichotoma*



**Competes with pastures**  
Small perennial tussock. Thread-like, tightly rolled leaves with fine serrations near the base. Loose, drooping flower heads. Small seeds with long awns.

**spiny rush**  
*Juncus acutus*



**Invades wetlands and pasture, unpalatable, obstructs water flow**  
Large perennial tussocks. Leaves cylindrical, ending in a sharp spine. Flowers brownish green in dense clusters. Large seed capsules, egg-shaped but pointed, 5 mm long.

**Italian buckthorn**  
*Rhamnus alaternus*



**Invades forest and coastal vegetation**  
Shrub. Glossy dark-green ovate leaves. Berries (on female plants) red at first, ripening black.

**may**  
*Crataegus monogyna*



**Invades bushland**  
Winter deciduous shrub or small tree. Spined branches and lobed leaves. White flowers. Round, red fleshy fruits.

**rope cacti**  
*Cylindropuntia* spp.



**Compete with native vegetation, form prickly thickets**  
Succulent, spiny perennials with rounded, rope-like, green leafless stems. Flowers large, with numerous red to yellow petals.

**sweet briar**  
*Rosa rubiginosa*



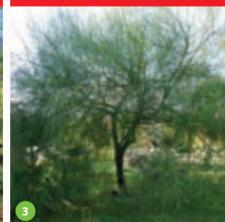
**Prickly thickets compete with pasture**  
Large deciduous shrub. Erect or scrambling with prickly stems and leaves. Pale pink scented flowers. Red fruits (hips) with glandular hairs on their stalks.

**mesquite**  
*Prosopis* spp.



**Invades rangeland, forms prickly thickets**  
Shrubs and trees. Bipinnate leaves with thorns at base. Long dense clusters of yellow flowers resembling wattle. Seeds in large lobed pods.

**parkinsonia**  
*Parkinsonia aculeata*



**Invades watercourses in rangelands**  
Small spiny tree with zig-zag branches. Long green leaf stalks with tiny leaflets. Bright yellow flowers. Pods light brown and swollen around each seed.

**sweet pittosporum**  
*Pittosporum undulatum*



**Invades native forest**  
Evergreen tree with broad leaves. Scented cream flowers. Orange berries with many sticky seeds.

**tamarisks**  
*Tamarix pauciflora*,  
*Tamarix ramosissima*



**Invade coastal and low rainfall riparian areas**  
Small trees. Grey-green shoots have tiny scale leaves that exude salt. Flowers small, pale pink.

**polygala**  
*Polygala myrtifolia*



**Invades and competes in coastal vegetation**  
Evergreen shrub. Leaves are oblong to oval. Pea-like flowers are mainly purple with a pair of large petal-like wings, and three petals, the lowest with a brushlike crest.

**prickly pear**  
*Opuntia* spp.



**Prickly thickets, compete with native vegetation**  
Succulent, spiny perennials with flattened stem segments. Leaves absent. Flowers large, with numerous red to yellow petals. Red fleshy fruits. Note: spineless *O. ficus indica* is not declared.

**tree heath**  
*Erica arborea*



**Invades bushland**  
Tall shrub with fine leaves and small white flowers.

**white weeping brooms**  
*Retama monosperma*,  
*Retama raetam*



**Invade native vegetation**  
Shrubs with grey-green weeping branchlets and scale leaves. Small white flowers.



## Herb

**African rue**  
*Peganum harmala*



**Invades rangeland pastures, unpalatable**  
Bushy perennial with a bitter smell. Cream coloured 5-petalled flowers. Leaves divided into narrow straps.

**apple of Sodom**  
*Solanum linnaeanum*



**Invades perennial pastures**  
Perennial subshrub. Long, spiny leaves. Large, round green berries, brown when mature.

**bifora**  
*Bifora testiculata*



**Competes with crops**  
Annual herb with coriander-like smell, divided leaves, and small white flowers in umbrella-like clusters. Fruit in pairs.

**bladder campion**  
*Silene vulgaris*



**Competes with crops and pastures, hard to kill**  
Perennial with creeping roots. Blue-green basal leaves. Balloon-like calyx below 5 white flower petals.

**blue mustard**  
*Chorispora tenella*



**Competes with crops and pastures**  
Winter annual to 60 cm covered with tiny sticky hairs. Musky odour. Leaves simple with shallowly-toothed margins. Flowers with four mauve petals. Long pods split into segments.

**broomrapes**  
introduced *Orobanche* spp.



**Parasitic on broadleaf crops including vegetables**  
Annuals. Leafless flowering stems briefly emerge from underground rootstocks attached to hosts.

## Creeper

**asparagus fern**  
*Asparagus scandens*



**Invades woodlands, smothers native plants**  
Climber with perennial rhizome and narrow, lance-shaped cladodes in threes, giving a fern-like appearance. Orange-red berries.

**bluebell creeper**  
*Billardiera fusiformis, Billardiera heterophylla*



**Smothers native plants**  
Woody climber with oblong, dark-green leaves, blue flowers and cylindrical blue berries.

**bridal creeper – common form**  
*Asparagus asparagoides*



**Smothers native plants**  
Climber with perennial rhizome and shiny oval pale green cladodes resembling leaves. Round berries turn orange-red when ripe.

**bridal creeper – Western Cape form**  
*Asparagus asparagoides*



**Smothers native plants**  
Cladodes larger, thicker and dark blue-green. Larger tubers in vertical clusters.

**bulbil watsonia**  
*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*



**Competes with pasture and native vegetation**  
Perennial growing in winter from a corm. Erect sword-shaped leaves. Tall flowering stem bears red flowers and bulbils instead of seeds.

**Calomba daisy**  
*Oncosiphon suffruticosum*



**Invades annual pastures, unpalatable**  
Winter annual. Grey, finely-divided leaves with camomile scent. Numerous small yellow flower heads.

**caltrop**  
*Tribulus terrestris*



**Spiny burrs, can be toxic to livestock**  
Prostrate summer annual. Creeping stems from a central root. Blue-green leaves divided into oblong leaflets. Yellow flowers.

**Cape tulips**  
*Moraea flaccida, Moraea miniata*



**Competes with pastures, toxic to livestock**  
Grows in winter from corms. Pink to orange flowers. *M. flaccida* has one long, flat leaf. *M. miniata* has two or three leaves per plant and clusters of small fleshy bulbils in the leaf axils.

**carrion flower**  
*Orbea variegata*



**Invades rangelands, unpalatable to livestock**  
Prostrate succulent with fleshy leafless stems. Large, foul smelling, starfish-shaped flowers mottled dull purple and yellow. Seeds wind-dispersed from large pods.

**creeping knapweed**  
*Rhaphiticum repens*



**Competes with crops and pastures**  
Perennial herb with deep root system and creeping rhizomes, blue-green leaves, and mauve thistle flower heads.

**bridal veil**  
*Asparagus declinatus*



**Smothers native plants**  
Climber with perennial rhizome, needle-shaped, blue-green cladodes. Large, ovoid, whitish berries.

**dodders**  
introduced *Cuscuta* spp.



**Parasitic on lucerne and other crops**  
Annual leafless twiner. Fine tangled white to orange stems attach to host plants. Masses of tiny white flowers, seeds in globular capsules.

**dolichos pea**  
*Dipogon lignosus*



**Invades bushland, smothers vegetation**  
Woody climber. Leaves with three leaflets. Mauve-pink pea flowers. Seeds in short pods.

**field bindweed**  
*Convolvulus arvensis*

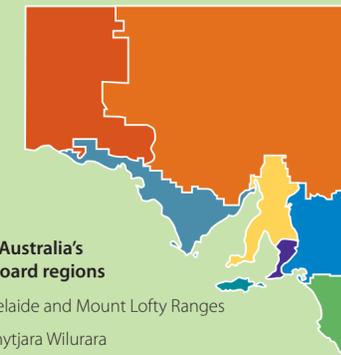


**Competes with crops and pasture**  
Perennial herb. Trailing and twining stems. Leaves oval, oblong to arrowhead shaped. Flowers are white and funnel-shaped.

## Advice on managing declared plants

Landowners have a legal responsibility to control declared plants. South Australia's eight regional **Natural Resources Management Boards** coordinate and enforce local and regional control programs for declared plants.

Declarations of plants (including local requirements for control) vary between and within NRM regions. Priority species for regional control programs also vary depending on the threats a weed poses in particular localities, whether it is a new invader or widespread, ease of control and time of year.



### South Australia's NRM Board regions

- Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
- Alinytjara Wilurara
- Eyre Peninsula
- Kangaroo Island
- Northern and Yorke
- South Australian Arid Lands
- South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
- South East

This pamphlet is intended as a guide to pest plant regulations in South Australia under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. It does not replace the Act and should not be relied upon as a legal document. Declarations and regulations change from time to time.

**cutleaf mignonette**  
*Reseda lutea*



**Competes with crops and pastures**  
Perennial herb with deep root system. Leaves divided into narrow segments. Yellow flowers in erect spikes, and green seed capsules.

**gazania**  
*Gazania* spp.



**Invades bushland, crops and vineyards**  
Perennial herb forming tussocks or creeping stems. Leaves simple and narrow, or deeply divided; dark green above and white-felted below. Large daisy flowerheads in yellow, white, orange or pink.

**horehound**  
*Marrubium vulgare*



**Competes with pastures, unpalatable**  
Perennial herb, densely covered in white hairs. Leaves in opposite pairs, broad, crinkled. Tiny white flowers. Small burrs in dense clusters.

**horsetail**  
*Equisetum* spp.



**Invades pasture and wetlands, toxic to livestock**  
Perennial fern with deep creeping rhizomes. Erect, hollow, finely ribbed shoots with rings of scale leaves. Spores in cones at the top of stems.

**khaki weed**  
*Alternanthera pungens*



**Invades pastures, spiny seeds**  
Prostrate, summer growing perennial herb. Extensive root system. Broad ovate leaves. Inconspicuous flowers are surrounded by pale spine-tipped bracts.

**Lincoln weed**  
*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*



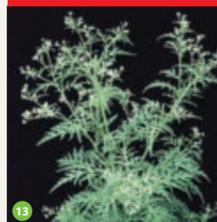
**Competes with pastures, unpalatable to livestock**  
Deep-rooted perennial herb. Leaves alternate, deeply divided. Yellow, 4-petalled flowers. Strong taste. Used in salads as wild rocket.

**Noogoora burr**  
*Xanthium strumarium*



**Competes with pasture and riparian vegetation, burrs contaminate wool**  
Summer-growing erect annual herb with grapevine-like leaves. Flowers inconspicuous, green. Burrs covered in small spines.

**parthenium weed**  
*Parthenium hysterophorus*



**Competes in pastures, toxic and allergenic to humans**  
Tall, summer-growing annual herb. Pale grey-green, deeply lobed leaves with fine hairs. Small, white daisy flowers on stem tips.

**poison buttercup**  
*Ranunculus sceleratus*



**Toxic to livestock**  
Annual herb. Leaves bright green, glossy and deeply divided into three lobes. Flowers have five small yellow petals, each forming numerous tiny, flattened green achenes with small beaks.

**salvation Jane**  
*Echium plantagineum*



**Competes in pastures, toxic to livestock**  
Annual herb, producing rosettes of broad dark-green leaves in autumn. Covered in short, bristly hairs. Purple flowers in spring, each forming four seeds.

**silverleaf nightshade**  
*Solanum elaeagnifolium*



**Competes with crops and pastures**  
Perennial herb with woody rootstock and deep spreading roots. Silvery-green, felted leaves. Violet flowers with yellow stamens. Green berries turning yellow.

**skeleton weed**  
*Chondrilla juncea*



**Competes with crops**  
Perennial herb with creeping roots. Leaves deeply toothed, in a basal rosette. Flowering stems branched, wiry, leafless. Numerous, small, yellow flower heads.

**three corner jack**  
*Emex australis*



**Competes in pastures and crops, spiny seeds**  
Prostrate to semi-erect, winter growing annual. Dark green, oval leaves. Three-spined fruits.

**variegated thistle**  
*Silybum marianum*



**Competes in pasture, toxic, spiny leaves**  
Annual or biennial with tall stems from a basal rosette. Spiny leaves blotched with white veins. Groups of large, purple flower heads.

**water dropwort**  
*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*



**Competes with pastures, unpalatable**  
Grows annually from tubers. Finely divided leaves. Flat clusters of white flowers on long stalks.

**yellow burrweed**  
*Amsinckia* spp.



**Competes with crops and pastures, toxic to livestock**  
Annual herb, producing rosettes of leaves in autumn. Covered in short, bristly hairs. Small yellow flowers in spring.

## Natural Resources South Australia

Contact your Natural Resources Centre to get advice on which declarations are relevant for you and your property, and how to manage your weed problems:

### Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaide  
**Black Hill** 8336 0901  
**Eastwood** 8273 9100  
**Gawler** 8523 7700  
**Victor Harbor** 8552 3677  
**Willunga** 8550 3400  
**Woodside** 8336 0901

### Alinytjara Wilurara

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/alinytjara-wilurara/  
**Adelaide** (head office) 8463 4860  
**Ceduna** 8625 3706

### Eyre Peninsula

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/eyrepeninsula/  
**Ceduna** 8625 3144  
**Cleve** 8628 2077  
**Port Lincoln** 8688 3111  
**Streaky Bay** 8626 1108

### Kangaroo Island

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland/  
**Kingscote** 8553 4444

### Northern and Yorke

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke/  
**Clare** 8841 3400

### South Australian Arid Lands

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/  
**Port Augusta** 8648 5300

### South Australian Murray-Darling Basin

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/  
**Murray Bridge** 8532 9100  
**Berri** 8580 1800  
**Burra** 8892 3033  
**Cambrai** 8564 5154  
**Karoonda** 8578 1493  
**Lameroo** 8576 3400  
**Mount Barker** 8391 7500  
**Strathalbyn** 8536 5600

### South East

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast/  
**Mt Gambier** 8735 1177  
**Keith** 8755 1620  
**Naracoorte** 8762 9706

## Biosecurity SA

Contact Biosecurity SA for more information on declared plants:

### NRM Biosecurity Unit

Email nrmbiosecurity@sa.gov.au  
 Phone 8303 9620

## What about aquatic weeds?

See the separate brochure Aquatic Weeds of South Australia, available in hard copy from Biosecurity SA and on the website: [www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds\\_and\\_pest\\_animals](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals)

