



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.

pond apple (*Annona glabra*)

Pond apple is a thicket-forming tree with a mangrove-like habit, adapted to fresh or slightly saline wetlands in the tropics. It is native to Central America, and also naturalised in Africa and Asia. It does not grow wild in South Australia.

Management Plan for Pond Apple

Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance

Objectives

- Prevent any supply of pond apple by growers in South Australia to other jurisdictions where it is an invasive weed.

Best Practice Implementation

- Compliance action in the event pond apple plants being produced in South Australia for sale.

Regional implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

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

Declaration

To implement this policy, pond apple is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its entry to South Australia, movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

Pond apple is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry, sale or road transport can only be issued by the regional landscape board or Green Adelaide 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 pond apple 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 pond apple. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water.

The following sections of the Act apply to pond apple throughout each of the regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region									
	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	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

Success of the program will be measured by its effectiveness in stopping any reported supply of pond apple from South Australia to other States or Territories. This policy is to be reviewed by 2025, or in the event of a change in the status of pond apple as a Weed of National Significance.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Pond apple is dispersed by seed carried by water and animals. Infestations arise in relatively undisturbed native vegetation on floodplains and the margins of wetlands. The main infestations are on creeks in rainforest and monsoonal open forest on the northern and central coasts of Queensland. It could also grow as a weed in north coastal New South Wales and the Northern Territory around Darwin and Arnhem Land.

Impacts

Pond apple invades and displaces native vegetation in tropical Australia. It replaces some natural mangroves communities, and also occupies other wetland communities that have been damaged by rising saline water tables.

Potential Distribution

Pond apple is not frost hardy, and would need glasshouse protection to grow in South Australia.

Feasibility of Containment

Item 2.2.5 of the national strategy on pond apple (ARMCANZ, 2001) calls for the prevention of cultivation and trade. The declaration of pond apple under the former Natural Resources Management Act in 2005 was intended to prevent any possibility of a wholesaler producing pond apple plants in South Australia for supply to those parts of Australia where it is weedy. No production nursery in this State is growing pond apple as there is no demand for this plant in our Mediterranean-type climate where the *Annona* fruit crops are not grown.

State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Aquatic	negligible 0	very high 0	monitor

Pond apple is unlikely to survive anywhere in the wild in South Australia, and has no potential as a weed in this State.

Considerations

Pond apple was introduced as a rootstock for grafting the commercially grown *Annona* fruits: *Annona cherimola* (cherimoya, called 'custard apple' in Australia), *Annona reticulata* (bullock's heart) and *Annona squamosa* (sweet sop), as it is more tolerant of waterlogging and salinity than these species. It is also grown in home gardens in Queensland where its fruit is occasionally sold under the name of caramel custard apple.

Pond apple has no commercial value in South Australia, and could only be grown in heated glasshouses here. There is no likelihood of the nursery industry in this State wishing to produce it.

Pond apple is one of the Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions. In line with the national strategy on pond apple, sale of the plant and its seed is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions.

Pond apple has been declared under the Act in compliance with the national strategy.

Synonymy

Annona glabra L., Sp. Pl. 1: 537 (1753).

Taxonomic synonyms:

Annona klainei Pierre ex Engl. & Diels, in Engl. Monogr. Afr. Pfl. 6: 80 (1901)

Annona palustris L., Sp. Pl. (edn 2) 1: 757 (1762).

References

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand Australia & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers (2001) 'Weeds of National Significance Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*) Strategic Plan.' (National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee: Launceston).

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

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