

Declared Plant Policy

under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004



Government
of South Australia

rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)

Rubber vine is a tropical liana from monsoonal rainforests of Madagascar, and does not grow wild in South Australia. It is one of the thirty-two Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions as agreed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.

Item 2.1.1 of the national strategy on rubber vine calls for the prohibition of propagation, cultivation and sale of rubber vine throughout Australia. In line with the strategy, sale of rubber vine plants and seed is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions.

Management Plan for rubber vine

Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance

Objectives

- Prevent any supply of rubber vine by growers in SA to other States/Territories where it is an invasive weed.

Implementation

- Compliance action in the event of rubber vine plants being produced in SA for sale.

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	prohibit sale and movement
Alinytjara Wilurara	prohibit sale and movement
Eyre Peninsula	prohibit sale and movement
Kangaroo Island	prohibit sale and movement
Northern and Yorke	prohibit sale and movement
South Australian Arid Lands	prohibit sale and movement
South Australian Murray Darling Basin	prohibit sale and movement
South East	prohibit sale and movement

Declaration

To implement this policy, rubber vine is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. The movement or transport of the plant on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, its entry to South Australia, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

rubber vine policy

Rubber vine is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its movement or sale can only be issued by the regional NRM Board pursuant to section 188.

The following sections of the Act apply to rubber vine throughout each of the the NRM regions noted below:

Sections of Act	Region							
	AMLR	AW	EP	KI	NY	SAAL	SAMDB	SE
175(1) Prohibiting entry to area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
175(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
177(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
177(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
180 Requiring notification of infestations								
182(1) Landowners to destroy the plant on their properties								
182(2) Landowners to control the plant on their properties								
185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves								

Review

Success of the program will be measured by its effectiveness in preventing any reported supply of rubber vine from SA to other States and Territories. This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, or in the event of a change in the status of rubber vine as a Weed of National Significance.

Invasiveness

Invasiveness

Rubber vine is dispersed by its abundant seed, which is carried by water while still in the pods, or by wind after it is shed. It spreads primarily in the gaps in the forest canopy along waterways, where the seeds germinate in moist silt layers after rain.

Impacts

Rubber vine invades and displaces native woodland and vine thicket vegetation in the moist tropics. Due to its habit as a large twining vine it can cover shrubs and trees to form a dense canopy that excludes all native regeneration. Infestations expand outward by short-range seed dispersal, colonising flood plains, pastures and hillsides.

Potential Distribution

Rubber vine requires an annual rainfall of 400 to 1400 mm, either uniformly wet or with a winter dry season. The southerly limit of its range is in northern New South Wales. It is not frost hardy, and would need glasshouse protection to grow in South Australia.

Feasibility of Containment

No production nursery in this State is growing rubber vine as there is no demand for this plant in our Mediterranean-type climate.

Current distribution

Rubber vine is not naturalised in South Australia.

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
Native vegetation	negligible 0	very high 0	monitor

Considerations

Rubber vine was introduced to tropical Australia as an ornamental in the mid 19th century, and was often planted around mining settlements. It was cultivated during WW2 for use as a rubber substitute. In Queensland, infestations are now found throughout the river systems and floodplain areas of southern Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria, and south along the coast to the Burnett River. Isolated infestations have been recorded and subsequently controlled as far south as Gatton, south-west to Charleville, Longreach and Blackall, and as far west as the Kimberly region in Western Australia. No rubber vine has been recorded in the Northern Territory; however, there are infestations near the Northern Territory – Queensland border.

Rubber vine is one of the Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions as agreed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. In line with the national strategy on rubber vine, sale of the plant and its seed is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions. The national strategy on rubber vine (ARMCANZ, 2001) calls for the prevention of cultivation and trade. The declaration of rubber vine under the Natural Resources Management Act in 2005 was intended to prevent any possibility of a wholesaler producing rubber vine plants in South Australia for supply to those parts of Australia where it is weedy. No production nursery in this State is growing rubber vine as there is no demand for this plant in our Mediterranean-type climate.

Although rubber vine has attractive flowers, it has no commercial value, and could only be grown in heated glasshouses in South Australia. There is no likelihood of the nursery industry in this State wishing to produce it.

Synonymy

Cryptostegia grandiflora Roxb. ex R.Br., Bot. Reg. 5: t. 435. (1819).

Other common names include indiarubber vine, liane de gatope and palay rubbervine.

References

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand Australia & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers (2001) 'Weeds of National Significance Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) Strategic Plan.' (National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee: Launceston)

Hon Ian Hunter MP
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and
Conservation

Date: 28 July 2014