



Government
of South Australia

WEED IDENTIFICATION NOTES

ANIMAL AND PLANT CONTROL COMMISSION

CALOMBA DAISY



Pasture infested with Calomba daisy, in flower.



Closeup of stem with flower heads



Seedling

CALOMBA DAISY



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Calomba daisy, *Pentzia suffruticosa*, is an annual plant introduced from South Africa in contaminated fodder.

Distribution

Eyre Peninsula	- isolated plants
Northern pastoral	- one record near Innamincka
Northern ag districts / Yorke Peninsula	- common in lower north, isolated roadside infestations elsewhere
Murray Mallee	- isolated plants and one large infestation
South East	- not present
Central region	- large infestations on the northern Adelaide plains

Impacts

Calomba daisy is unpalatable to stock and also reduces the growth of pasture species by chemicals that it releases into the soil. If eaten by stock, Calomba daisy will taint meat and milk products. Dense stands can also reduce the yield of cereal crops.

Recognition

Calomba daisy is an erect, strongly chamomile-scented annual herb to 60cm high. Leaves are grey-green in colour, 2-4cm long and divided into thin lobes which give a feather-like appearance. The first leaves form a small rosette, from which an erect, leafy flowering stem grows to about 60 cm tall. The flowers are minute, mustard yellow and arranged in broad flat groups of ball-shaped heads at the top of the stems. Each flower forms a seed about 2mm long, resembling fine chaff.

Ecology/Biology

Calomba daisy reproduces by seed which germinates in autumn; the seedlings are tiny and need gaps in pasture or bare ground to establish. Plants overwinter as rosettes, then flower stems develop in August. Flowers appear in October and November. Plants die in early summer leaving dry woody stems carrying the seeds.

The seeds of Calomba daisy are partially adapted for dispersal by wind but tend to remain in the flower head until this breaks up. Spread occurs when the whole flower head is broken off and moved by wind, animals or vehicles. Seeds may also be carried in fodder and produce.

Further Information :

Parsons, W.T., Cuthbertson, E.G. (1992). *Noxious Weeds of Australia* . Inkata Press.

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For more advice on recognising and controlling Calomba daisy, contact your local Animal and Plant Control Board :