



Government  
of South Australia

## 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.*

### bridal veil (*Asparagus declinatus*)

Bridal veil is a winter-growing, summer-dormant scrambling perennial vine similar to bridal creeper. Introduced from South Africa, it is localised in South Australia, invading native vegetation understory.

#### Management Plan for Bridal Veil

##### Outcomes

- Maintain the integrity of native vegetation by minimising invasion and impacts of bridal veil.

##### Objectives

- Contain existing infestations to prevent spread into uninvaded areas.
- Seek to eradicate bridal veil from sites of high conservation significance.
- Control priority infestations in accordance with regional management plans.

##### Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards to control infestations at high priority sites.
- Prohibition on sale of bridal veil to be enforced when detected by regional landscape boards.

##### Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

## bridal veil policy

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Destroy infestations
Green Adelaide	Protect sites
Hills and Fleurieu	Protect sites
Kangaroo Island	Destroy infestations
Limestone Coast	Eradicate
Murraylands and Riverland	Destroy infestations
Northern and Yorke	Destroy infestations
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

### Declaration

To implement this policy, bridal veil is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited. Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide may require land owners to control bridal veil plants growing on their land. Landscape boards and Green Adelaide are required to control plants on road reserves in their regions, and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Bridal veil is declared in category 2 under the Act, for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its road transport or sale can only be issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) or their delegate 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 bridal veil on public roads. 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 bridal veil. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to bridal veil throughout each of the regions noted below:

Region	AW	EP	GA	HF	KI	LC	MR	NY	SAAL
Sections of Act									
186(1) Prohibiting entry to area									
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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025 or in the event of a change in any regional management plan for bridal veil.

## Weed Risk

### Invasiveness

Seed of bridal veil is produced in large berries, which are dispersed by birds such as starlings and currawongs. Seedlings establish readily even in undisturbed native vegetation.

### Impacts

Bridal veil is a strong competitor whose dense canopy overshadows native plants and blocks sunlight during the winter growing season. It also competes for soil space and nutrients through the dense mat of tubers developed along its rhizomes.

### Potential distribution

Climate suitability modelling indicates bridal veil has not reached its potential distribution. Further spread is possible throughout most of the Eyre Peninsula, Hills and Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island and Limestone Coast regions, as well as the southern parts of the Northern and Yorke and Murraylands and Riverland regions.

## Feasibility of Containment

### Control costs

There are no biological control agents available for the control of bridal veil. Control by herbicides is labour-intensive, especially in less accessible sites, and some off-target damage occurs.

### Persistence

Bridal veil can maintain itself indefinitely in native vegetation, regenerating readily from tubers after fires and dry summers. It replaces the original ground layer and competes with shrub layers.

### Current distribution

Bridal veil is scattered throughout the Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Hills and Fleurieu, and Northern and Yorke. There are limited infestations in the Limestone Coast, and Murraylands and Riverland regions. The largest infestations are on Kangaroo Island.

## 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
Forestry	negligible 6	very high 2	monitor
Native vegetation	medium 98	very high 3	contain spread alert

## Considerations

Risk assessment indicates containment as the management action to protect native vegetation; this will be implemented by early detection of new infestations, preventing further spread and herbicide treatment of small infestations. Bridal veil will be destroyed in the Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Northern and Yorke, Limestone Coast and Murraylands and Riverland regions due to its localised distribution in these regions. In the Green Adelaide and Hills and Fleurieu regions, high value conservation sites will be protected by managing the weed as per regional management plans.

Limited action is required in the Alinytjara Wilurara and South Australian Arid Lands regions where habitats are not vulnerable to invasion by bridal veil.

Bridal veil is closely related to bridal creeper, *Asparagus asparagoides*, and both species were formerly grouped in the declaration as bridal creepers. The density of bridal veil may increase over decades in sites where bridal creeper is being reduced in abundance by biological control.

Bridal veil is one of the asparagus weeds grouped together as a Weed of National Significance, and is the subject of a national control strategy.

## Synonymy

*Asparagus declinatus* L., Sp. Pl. 313 (1753)

Nomenclatural synonym:

*Myrsiphyllum declinatum* (L.) Obermeyer, Bothalia 15: 86 (1984)

Taxonomic synonyms:

*Asparagus crispus* Lam., Encycl. 1: 295 (1783)

*Asparagus decumbens* Jacq., Pl. Rar. Hort. Schoenbr. 1: 51 (1797)

*Asparagus flexuosus* Thunb., Prodr. Pl. Cap. 66 (1800)

Other common names include bridal veil asparagus, bridal veil creeper and krulkransie.

## References

National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee (2006) *Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Manual*. (Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation: Adelaide).

Hon David Speirs MP  
**Minister for Environment and Water**

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