

Declared Plant Policy

under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004



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.
- Eradicate bridal veil from sites of high conservation significance.
- Destroy priority infestations in accordance with NRM board regional management plans.

Implementation

- NRM authorities to destroy infestations at high priority sites.
- Prohibition on sale of bridal veil to be enforced when detected by NRM authorities.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	protect sites
Alinytjara Wilurara	limited action
Eyre Peninsula	destroy infestations
Kangaroo Island	destroy infestations
Northern and Yorke	destroy infestations
South Australian Arid Lands	limited action
South Australian Murray Darling Basin	destroy infestations
South East	eradicate

Declaration

To implement this policy, bridal veil 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, or the sale by itself or as a contaminant is prohibited. NRM authorities may require land owners to control bridal veil plants growing on their land. NRM authorities are required to control plants on road reserves, 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 movement or sale can only be issued by the Chief Officer pursuant to section 188.

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

Sections of Act	Region							
	AMLR	AW	EP	KI	NY	SAAL	SAMDB	SE
175(1) Prohibiting entry to area								
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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2020 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 though 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, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide & Mount Lofty ranges and South-East regions, and the southern parts of the Northern and Yorke and SA Murray-Darling Basin 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, Northern & Yorke, Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges. There are limited infestations in the SA Murray-Darling Basin and South-East 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, South Australian Murray Darling Basin and South East NRM regions due to its localised distribution in these regions. In the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region, high value conservation sites will be protected by destruction of 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 will be 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)

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