



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.

water dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*)

Water dropwort is a perennial that invades pastures on boggy clay soils. It is confined to the Meadows Creek in South Australia.

Management Plan for Water Dropwort

Outcomes

- Protect the productivity of pastures on heavy, poorly drained soils in the high-rainfall regions of the State.

Objectives

- Minimise the impacts of water dropwort on pasture production.
- Contain water dropwort within its present range.

Best Practice Implementation

- Prevent movement of water dropwort seed on livestock or fodder from the infested areas.
- Management of water dropwort by owners of infested land.
- Control of the existing infestations on the Meadows Creek.
- Routine surveillance and response to any incursions of water dropwort in other regions at risk by regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

| Region | Actions | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Alinytjara Wilurara | Limited action | | | | | | | | |
| Eyre Peninsula | Contain spread - regional alert | | | | | | | | |
| Green Adelaide | Contain spread | | | | | | | | |
| Hills and Fleurieu | Destroy infestations | | | | | | | | |
| Kangaroo Island | Monitor | | | | | | | | |
| Limestone Coast | Contain spread - regional alert | | | | | | | | |
| Murraylands and Riverland | Manage sites | | | | | | | | |
| Northern and Yorke | Limited action | | | | | | | | |
| South Australian Arid Lands | Limited action | | | | | | | | |

Declaration

To implement this policy, water dropwort is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia so that movement of contaminated produce can be prevented. 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 water dropwort plants growing on their land. These authorities are required to control plants growing on road reserves in their regions and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners. Within the Green Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland, and Northern and Yorke regions, notification of any infestations is mandatory to ensure these are controlled.

Water dropwort is declared in category 3 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 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 water dropwort 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 water dropwort. 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 water dropwort 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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 186(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads | X | 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 | X |
| 188(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 190 Requiring notification of presence | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | |
| 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 | X |
| 194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves | X | 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 one or more regional management plans for water dropwort.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Water dropwort spreads as seeds, which may be carried on animals or water and as a contaminant in hay. It has relatively low seed set, and probably flowers in its second year.

Impacts

Livestock do not usually graze on water dropwort and it has been reported to be poisonous.

It causes a minor reduction in pasture production, but dense stands of water dropwort are often a response to low pasture density on problematical sites rather than its cause. The problem at Meadows is due largely to uncompetitive pastures, which are dominated by volunteer species with a short growing season such as strawberry clover. These plants do not fully use the resources of the site and so leave a vacant niche for water dropwort.

Water dropwort may have more significant impacts if it is ever established in irrigated pastures.

Potential distribution

Water dropwort infestations are limited to heavy clays along streams in high rainfall. It might be expected to establish in similar habitats in the Eyre Peninsula, Hills and Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, and Murraylands and Riverland regions.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

There are no registered chemicals to control water dropwort in South Australia. Research has indicated that many common herbicides that target a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds may be useful in controlling spot infestations. However, these chemicals could be harmful to useful pasture species and are unsuitable for use around watercourses.

The solution for the infested pastures around Meadows is pasture renovation with a perennial grass such as phalaris and white or subterranean clover. Competition from perennial grasses reduces seedling survival, therefore maintaining a dense pasture is an effective management strategy. Effective grazing by sheep in winter improves density through tillering of the phalaris and clover, but cattle may bare the ground by pugging, giving water dropwort seedlings sites to establish.

Persistence

A large proportion of the population each spring consists of seedlings: this may imply that individual plants are short-lived and seedling recruitment is necessary to maintain their density.

Current distribution

Within South Australia, water dropwort is restricted to seasonally flooded land fringing the Meadows Creek. It has also been found in similar habitats in Victoria.

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 |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grazing - southern | low 17 | very high 2 | monitor |
| Irrigated pastures | medium 67 | very high 2 | contain spread |

Considerations

Water dropwort causes a specific problem in a localised and restricted habitat. Risk assessment at State level indicates monitoring in southern grazing lands, and containing spread to prevent it establishing in irrigated pastures.

Regional management plans vary according to regional habitats and presence of the weed. The Hills and Fleurieu region aims to destroy infestations. The Eyre Peninsula and Limestone Coast regions aim to contain spread by preventing entry to their regions and treat water dropwort as an alert weed. The Kangaroo Island region monitors for any incursion of water dropwort, and the Murraylands and Riverland manage the sites of infestations. Only limited action is required in the Alinytjara Wilurara, South Australian Arid Lands, and Northern and Yorke regions where there are no suitable habitats.

Synonymy

Oenanthe pimpinelloides L., Sp. Pl. 1: 255 (1753).

Taxonomic synonyms:

Oenanthe angulosa Griseb., Spic. Fl. Rumel. 1: 352 (1843)
Oenanthe incrassans Bory & Chaub., Nouv. Fl. Pélop. t. 9 (1838)
Oenanthe thracica Griseb., Spic. Fl. Rumel. 1: 355 (1843)

Other common names include corky-fruited water-dropwort, meadow parsley and parsley dropwort.

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

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