

Plant Policy

small-fruited pheasant's eye (*Adonis microcarpa*)



Government
of South Australia

Small-fruited pheasant's eye is an annual with a limited distribution in rotational cropping paddocks.

Weed risk

Invasiveness

Although its seed production is high, small-fruited pheasant's eye depends on transport as a contaminant of fodder or seed for its dispersal.

Impacts

Small-fruited pheasant's eye is not a serious competitor with cereal crops, where it is easily controlled by herbicides. There is no herbicide treatment in the legume pasture phase, and control depends on pasture management and treatment in the cropping phase of the rotation.

Small-fruited pheasant's eye contains cardiac glycosides that may stock deaths when fed in hay, or as seeds contaminating grain fed to poultry or pigs.

Potential distribution

Pheasant's eye needs an annual rainfall over 300 mm, winter monthly temperature minima over 4.5°C and calcareous soils. It has not yet reached its ecological limits in SA, being largely dependent on fodder and seed movement for any further dispersal.

Feasibility of Containment

The species was proclaimed for active control only in those board areas where it had been perceived as creating a problem in the pasture phase of rotational farming.

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
Crop/pasture rotation	low 18	very high 6	monitor

Considerations

Small-fruited pheasant's eye was introduced as a garden annual in the around 1890 and was first found naturalised at Roseworthy in 1915. It became a significant weed of rotational pastures before the introduction of modern herbicides because of its unpalatability and toxicity. It was declared noxious under the Weeds Act 1956 for certain areas, and remained declared

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under the *Pest Plants Act 1975*, the *Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986* and the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004*.

None of the NRM authorities have found it necessary to use any of their powers under the Act to manage small-fruited pheasant's eye in their regions. Any control actions needed on properties are carried out at the discretion of land owners.

Therefore, small-fruited pheasant's eye is not declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* in SA.

Synonymy

Adonis microcarpa DC., Syst. Nat. [Candolle] 1: 222 (1817).

Nomenclatural synonym:

Adonis dentata var. *microcarpa* (DC.) Cout., Fl. Portugal 276 (1939).

The names *Adonis aestivalis*, *Adonis annua* and *Adonis autumnalis* were sometimes misapplied to *Adonis microcarpa* in Australia.

Other common names include pheasant's eye and red morocco.

References

Kloot, P.M. (1974) Studies in the ecology of Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis microcarpus* DC.) M. Ag. Sci Thesis: University of Adelaide.

Hon Ian Hunter MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

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