

Declared Plant Policy

under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004



Government
of South Australia

cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

Cat's claw creeper is one of the thirty-two Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a prohibition on sale in all States and Territories. It is a tropical plant that does not grow wild in South Australia.

Management Plan for Cat's Claw Creeper

Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance

Objectives

- Prevent any supply of cat's claw creeper by growers in SA to other States/Territories where it is an invasive weed.

Implementation

- Compliance action in the event of cat's claw creeper plants being found on sale in SA.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	Prohibit sale and movement
Alinytjara Wilurara	Prohibit sale and movement
Eyre Peninsula	Prohibit sale and movement
Kangaroo Island	Prohibit sale and movement
Northern and Yorke	Prohibit sale and movement
South Australian Arid Lands	Prohibit sale and movement
South Australian Murray Darling Basin	Prohibit sale and movement
South East	Prohibit sale and movement

Declaration

To implement this policy, cat's claw creeper is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia so that any further sale or movement of plants can be prevented. The movement or transport of the plant on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, its entry to the State, or the sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

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Cat's claw creeper 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 cat's claw creeper 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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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								
182(3) Landowners to comply with regulations or instructions								
185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves								

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for cat's claw creeper or a change in its status as a Weed of National Significance.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Cat's claw creeper is dispersed by its abundant seed, which is carried a short distance by wind after it is shed from the fruit but over longer distances by flood waters and down streams. It spreads primarily into the gaps in rainforest canopies, particularly areas disturbed by stock. It tolerates low-light conditions, especially as a seedling, but grows more vigorously in open sunny habitats. Plants may reproduce vegetatively from roots and runners, with the trailing stems forming new roots where they touch the ground.

Impacts

Cat's claw creeper invades and displaces native woodland and vine thicket vegetation in the moist tropics. Due to its habit as a large vine it can smother standing vegetation, including large trees, and cause canopy collapse. It then persists as a dense cover that excludes native regeneration.

Potential distribution

Cat's claw creeper is not expected to become naturalised in native vegetation in SA as it is adapted to summer-rainfall tropical and subtropical habitats. Its native range is forest with 750-2400 mm annual rainfall.

Feasibility of Containment

Persistence

Cat's claw creeper is a perennial that forms a large underground tubers from which it can regenerate.

Current distribution

Cat's claw creeper is widely cultivated in gardens in SA but is not naturalised.

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
Native vegetation	negligible 4	very high 0	Monitor

Considerations

Cat's claw creeper is native to tropical America, and is naturalised in south-eastern USA, Uganda, Tanzania, south-east Asia and some oceanic islands, as well as in tropical Australia.

It was recognised by Australia as a Weed of National Significance in 2012 and will be the subject of a national control strategy.

Cat's claw creeper is grown as a garden ornamental in SA and the other southern States of Australia but is no longer promoted by the nursery industry. Beyond preventing any further retail or wholesale trade in this plant, it is not proposed to address existing garden plantings in SA.

Synonymy

Dolichandra unguis-cati (L.) L.G.Lohmann, Nuevo Cat. Fl. Vasc. Venezuela 273 (2008).

Basionym:

Bignonia unguis-cati L., Sp. Pl. 2: 623 (1753).

Nomenclatural synonyms:

Doxantha unguis-cati (L.) Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. London 3: 189 (1863).

Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A.H. Gentry, Brittonia 25(3): 236–237 (1973).

Taxonomic synonyms:

Bignonia acutistipula Schltld., Linnaea 26: 375 (1854).

Bignonia gracilis Lodd., Bot. Cab. 18: t. 1705 (1831).

Bignonia inflata Griseb., Abh. Königl. Ges. Wiss. Göttingen 24: 256 (1879).

Bignonia triantha DC., Prodr. 9: 148 (1845).

Bignonia tweediana Lindl., Bot. Reg. 26: t. 45 (1840).

Bignonia unguis L., Syst. Nat. ed. 10 2: 1114 (1759).

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Dolichandra kohautiana C.Presl, Abh. Königl. Böhm. Ges. Wiss. V, 3: 522 (1845).
Doxantha radicans Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. London 3: 190 (1863).
Spathodea kohautiana (C.Presl) Walp., Repert. Bot. Syst. 6: 513 (1838).

Other common names include cat's claw climber, cat's-claw vine, catclaw trumpet, funnel creeper, macfadyena and yellow trumpet vine.

Hon Ian Hunter MP
**Minister for Sustainability, Environment and
Conservation**

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