



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.

alkali sida (*Malvella leprosa*)

Alkali sida is a deep-rooted perennial that became a pest in irrigated land within its native range in North America. It is found at a few localities in South Australia but has remained very rare.

Management Plan for Alkali Sida

Outcomes

- To prevent any losses to irrigated pasture production from alkali sida.

Objectives

- To prevent any outbreak of alkali sida as a weed in South Australia.

Best Practice Implementation

- Existing alkali sida infestations to be destroyed.
- Any further entry of alkali sida to the State to be prevented.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Destroy infestations – regional alert
Green Adelaide	Monitor
Hills and Fleurieu	Monitor
Kangaroo Island	Monitor – not present
Limestone Coast	Destroy infestations – regional alert
Murraylands and Riverland	Destroy infestations
Northern and Yorke	Monitor
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

Declaration

To implement this policy, alkali sida 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 entry to South Australia, movement or transport on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

Landowners are required to notify their regional Landscape board or Green Adelaide of infestations on their land in all regions except Eyre Peninsula. In all regions, land owners are required to destroy alkali sida plants growing on their land. Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide are required to destroy plants on road reserves and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Alkali sida is declared in category 1 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its entry, sale or road transport 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 alkali sida on public roads or bring them into the State. 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 alkali sida. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive of DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to alkali sida 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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
192(2) Land owners to control the plant on their properties									
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 one or more regional management plans for alkali sida.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Overseas experience suggests that cultivation could spread alkali sida through paddocks as root fragments, and its seed capsules might be spread in the wool of sheep.

Impacts

Although alkali sida has been present in South Australia since the early 20th century, no land use has been adversely affected. Nor has it caused a problem in Victoria and New South Wales, where it also occurs. However, overseas experience suggests that it could compete strongly with irrigated pastures if introduced to this system.

Potential distribution

Alkali sida is adapted to grow on alkaline and saline soils, and will survive on the rainfall available across the agricultural zone of South Australia. Its deep root system enables it to survive drought. Its potential range includes the whole agricultural zone.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Alkali sida can be controlled by repeated spot spraying with an appropriate herbicide. Costs are minor for the small infestations in the State, but the herbicide used on alkali sida cannot be applied close to vines or horticultural crops due to potential for vapour drift.

Persistence

Its deep root system enables alkali sida to persist at a site despite losing top growth under heavy grazing or drought.

Current distribution

Alkali sida infestations are isolated in South Australia, and eradication is feasible. It has not reached the irrigated habitats in which it could become a problem for primary production. It is also recorded from a few localities in the Murray-Darling Basin in Victoria and New South Wales.

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	negligible 11	very high 1	monitor
Irrigated pastures	high 154	very high 2	destroy infestations Alert
Vegetables	negligible 5	very high 1	monitor
Perennial horticulture	low 25	very high 2	monitor

Considerations

Malvella leprosa is native to much of the western United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile, and two distinct strains were introduced into South Australia. The typical form is restricted to the "copper triangle" of Yorke Peninsula where it arrived in ship's ballast from California and was first recorded in 1948. The form that was formerly known as *hederacea* was first reported in 1959 at Riverton, where it has since been eradicated, and later at Caltowie, Renmark, Mannum and in the Marne Valley.

Alkali sida was proclaimed on schedule one under the *Weeds Act 1956*, and remained on this schedule under the *Pest Plants Act 1975*, and the *Animal and Plant Control Act 1986*.

Risk assessment at State level indicates treating the weed as an alert species, with a management action of destroying infestations in irrigated pastures while monitoring it in other land uses. Regional management plans vary according to regional habitats and the presence of the weed.

It is treated as a regional alert species with infestations to be destroyed if they ever occur in the Eyre Peninsula and Limestone Coast regions. Only limited action is required in the Alinytjara Wilurara and South Australia Arid Lands regions where it is unlikely to establish. The Murraylands and Riverland region aims to destroy the few existing infestations. Alkali sida is monitored in the Hills and Fleurieu, Adelaide, Kangaroo Island and Northern and Yorke regions where it poses a low risk.

Synonymy

Malvella leprosa (Ortega) Krapov., *Bonplandia* 3: 59 (1970)

Basionym: *Malva leprosa* Ortega, *Nov. Rar. Pl. Descr. Dec.* 8: 95 (1798)

Nomenclatural synonym:

Sida leprosa (Ortega) K.Schum., *Fl. Bras. (Martius)* 12: 341 (1886)

Taxonomic synonyms:

Malva hederacea Douglas ex Hook., *Fl. Bor.-Amer. (Hooker)* 1: 107 (1831)

Sida hederacea (Douglas ex Hook.) Torr. ex A.Gray, *Mem. Amer. Acad. Arts ser.* 2, 4: 23 (1849)

Sida leprosa (Ortega) K.Schum. var. *hederacea* (Douglas ex Hook.) K.Schum. ex Clement, *Contr. Gray Herb.* 180: 52 (1957).

Other common names include alkali mallow and ivy-leaf sida.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021