



Government
of South Australia

Declared Plant Policy

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.

Implementation

- Existing 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.

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	Monitor
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Destroy infestations – regional alert
Kangaroo Island	Monitor – not present
Northern and Yorke	Monitor
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin	Destroy infestations
South East	Destroy infestations – regional alert

Declaration

To implement this policy, alkali sida is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia so that movement of contaminated produce can be prevented. The movement or transport of the plant on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, its entry to South Australia, or the sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

Landowners are required to notify Natural Resources Management (NRM) authorities of infestations on their land in all regions except Eyre Peninsula. In all NRM regions, land owners are required to destroy alkali sida plants growing on their land. NRM authorities are required to destroy plants on road reserves and may recover costs from the adjoining land owners.

Alkali Sida policy

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 movement or sale can only be issued by the Chief Officer pursuant to section 188. Under the *Natural Resources Management (General) Regulations 2005*, the transport or movement of grain for milling or wool for cleaning is exempt from the operation of sections 175 and the sale of wool or grain is exempt from section 177(2) if at the time of the sale the person believes on reasonable grounds that the purchaser will remove the plant from the wool or grain before any re-sale.

The following sections of the Act apply to alkali sida 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	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
182(1) Landowners to destroy the plant on their properties	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
182(2) Landowners to control the plant on their properties								
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 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.

Alkali Sida policy

It is treated as a regional alert species with infestations to be destroyed if they ever occur in the Eyre Peninsula, and South East NRM regions. Only limited action is required in the Alinytjara Wilurara and South Australia Arid Lands NRM regions where it is unlikely to establish. The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin region aims to destroy the few existing infestations. Alkali sida is monitored in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, 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.

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Conservation

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