



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.

sweetbriar (*Rosa rubiginosa*)

Sweetbriar was introduced into South Australia in the 19th century as a garden ornamental. It has become naturalised on roadsides, neglected pasture and native vegetation in the higher rainfall regions of the State.

Management Plan for Sweetbriar

Outcomes

- Prevent losses of pasture or of the amenity value of recreational land due to briars.

Objectives

- Destroy high priority infestations of sweetbriar in the control areas, as determined by regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide.
- Contain any intractable infestations in these areas.
- Prevent further spread of sweetbriar into currently uninfested areas

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards in the active control areas, and Green Adelaide, to ensure high priority infestations, as determined by those authorities, on private or public land are controlled.
- These authorities to control small infestations on road reserves and recover costs from adjoining landowners.
- Any infestations too large for immediate removal in these areas to be the subject of plans for containment and progressive reduction.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

sweet briar policy

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Limited action
Green Adelaide	Manage sites
Hills and Fleurieu	Manage sites
Kangaroo Island	Monitor
Limestone coast	Manage sites
Murraylands and Riverland	Protect sites
Northern and Yorke	Monitor
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

Declaration

To implement this policy, sweetbriar is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. Its movement or transport on a public road, by itself or as a contaminant, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited. Green Adelaide and the Hills and Fleurieu, Limestone Coast, and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards may require land owners to control sweetbriar 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 landowners.

Sweetbriar is declared in category 2 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 Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water 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 sweetbriar 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 sweetbriar. Note that certain produce or goods may be excluded from these general movement and sale exemptions by Gazettal Notice of the Chief Executive, DEW.

The following sections of the Act apply to sweetbriar 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
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									
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		
194 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves			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 sweetbriar.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Sweetbriar invades lowland grassland and grassy woodland, sclerophyll forest and woodland, riparian, rock outcrops, pastures and pine plantations. Infestations occur primarily in lightly shaded and sunny positions.

The brightly coloured fleshy fruit is an attractive food for frugivorous birds and mammals, which then excrete the seed in viable conditions. This accounts for its rapid spread in native bushland in the eastern States of Australia.

Impacts

Sweetbriar can impact on pasture productivity. It has no fodder value, and once clumps of the weed become numerous there is a considerable loss of pasture production through competition with productive pasture species. It also provides harbour for rabbits and foxes. It also invades disturbed native vegetation in high rainfall areas, diminishing its conservation value.

Potential distribution

Sweetbriar is adapted to humid and sub-humid cool to temperate regions, where it is most common in areas receiving more than 600 mm annual rainfall. However, infestations may also occur in lower rainfall areas in moist gullies and protected sites. They are densest in hilly and rocky country around trees on creek banks and along fence lines. The weed can grow on most soil types but does best on well-drained sites of moderate to high fertility.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

The long-term control of established infestations in pasture may require the integration of a number of techniques including mechanical removal, pasture management, grazing management, herbicide application, regular monitoring and replacement with appropriate plants. Established plants can be removed by hand grubbing, and large dense stands may require bulldozing or pulling with tractor and chain.

The most economical time to control sweetbriar is when the plants are young. Heavy grazing will help to prevent seedling establishment and vigorous perennial pastures provide sufficient competition to reduce the incursion. Herbicides can be applied to sweetbriar as foliar sprays, basal bark treatment or through cut stump application. Control in native vegetation usually requires spot spraying or cut-and-swab of individual plants.

Persistence

Sweetbriar plants live for many decades, regrowing from the perennial woody rootstock. The plants are vulnerable to grazing in their first year or two, particularly by sheep, goats and rabbits. However, established bushes have enough prickly stems to deter grazing animals from feeding on the young growth.

Current distribution

In South Australia, the main infestations of sweetbriar are concentrated in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid-North regions. There are scattered infestations in the Limestone Coast, eastern Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula and lower Eyre Peninsula.

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 25	medium 36	limited action
Native vegetation	low 38	medium 40	limited action

Considerations

Sweetbriar is long-lived and adapted to spread by seed, and has become a weed in North America, western Asia, South Africa, New Zealand and northern Africa. In SA it was first proclaimed for a small number of local government areas in the south-eastern Adelaide Hills in 1984 as an “agricultural pest plant” due to concerns that infestations of briars on roadsides and neglected pastures would become intractable. It is still grown as an ornamental under the name of eglantine, and is a source of the rose hips used in herbal medicine.

Risk assessment at the State level implies limited action as this species has much lower impacts on pasture and native vegetation than dog rose. However, regional management plans vary according to regional habitats and presence of the weed. In the Green Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu and Limestone Coast regions infested sites are managed. The Murraylands and Riverland region aims to protect sites. Infestations are monitored in the Kangaroo Island and Northern and Yorke regions, and only limited action is necessary in the Alinytjara Wilurara, South Australian Arid Lands and Eyre Peninsula regions.

Synonymy

Rosa rubiginosa L., Mant. Pl. 2: 564 (1771)

Taxonomic synonyms:

Rosa eglanteria L., Sp.Pl. 491 (1753)

Rosa nemoralis Léman, Bull. Soc. Philom. 94 (1818)

Other common names include sweet briar rose, eglantine, églantier odorant, rosier rouillé and wein-rose.

References

Hatton, T.J. (1989) Spatial patterning of sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*) by two vertebrate species. *Aust. J. Ecol.* 14:199-205.

Hon David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

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