



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.

ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)

Ragwort is a perennial herb native to northern Europe and Asia. Due to its toxicity it is a pasture weed in North America, New Zealand and parts of eastern Australia. It does not occur in South Australia.

Management Plan for Ragwort

Outcomes

- Maintain pastures in the high rainfall areas of the State.

Objectives

- Prevent the introduction and establishment of ragwort in South Australia.

Best Practice Implementation

- Regional landscape boards and Green Adelaide to ensure that any infestations of ragwort found are notified and destroyed.
- Movement of fodder or machinery from any infested property to be monitored for contamination.

Regional Implementation

Refer to regional management plans for further details.

Region	Actions
Alinytjara Wilurara	Limited action
Eyre Peninsula	Destroy infestations - Alert
Green Adelaide	Destroy infestations
Hills and Fleurieu	Destroy infestations
Kangaroo Island	Destroy infestations - Alert
Limestone Coast	Destroy infestations - Alert
Murraylands and Riverland	Destroy infestations
Northern and Yorke	Destroy infestations - Alert
South Australian Arid Lands	Limited action

Declaration

To implement this policy, ragwort is declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia so that movement of contaminated fodder or machinery 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.

The Eyre Peninsula, Hills and Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland and Northern and Yorke Landscape Boards, and Green Adelaide, may require land owners to destroy ragwort plants growing on their land. These authorities are required to destroy plants on road reserves in their regions and may recover costs from adjoining land owners. Land owners in the Green Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, Murraylands and Riverland, and Northern and Yorke regions are required to notify their regional landscape board or Green Adelaide of infestations on their land to ensure that these are destroyed.

Ragwort 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, 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 ragwort 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 ragwort. 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 ragwort 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	
192(1) Land owners to destroy the plant on their properties		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	

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by 2025 or in the event of a change in one or more regional management plans for ragwort.

Weed Risk

Invasiveness

Dispersal is mainly by wind-blown seed, which is produced in large quantities. The seed can also be dispersed in hay or on vehicles. Ragwort can become abundant in volunteer perennial pasture or degraded pastures, but not in managed sown pasture.

Impacts

Ragwort is an invader of perennial pasture in high rainfall climates. It contains various alkaloids that make it toxic to livestock. Although unpalatable, it can cause cumulative poisoning in sheep and cattle. Cows forced to eat ragwort produce tainted milk.

Potential distribution

Ragwort requires a cool climate with annual rainfall greater than 750 mm, heavy soils of moderate fertility and no severe summer drought. It grows in open habitats such as grassland, but not under tree cover. This limits its potential distribution in South Australia to small areas in the southern part of the State.

Feasibility of Containment

Control costs

Ragwort is easily controlled with commonly used broadleaf selective herbicides. However this may be a relatively high expenditure for the rundown land where it can become prominent as a weed.

Persistence

Although most seeds germinate in the first year, some will persist in the soil for several years. It may also regenerate from root fragments and the crown of the plant.

Current distribution

Ragwort is now absent from South Australia, but is established in southern Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales, with a localised population near Walpole in Western Australia.

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 29	very high 0	monitor

Considerations

Ragwort was first recorded in South Australia in 1954; one infestation occurred in the Mt. Lofty Ranges and one in the Limestone Coast region. Both were destroyed, and the plant is believed to be extinct in this State although it occurs in Victoria as far west as Warrnambool.

The land use at risk is permanent grazing in the southern part of South Australia, and risk assessment indicates monitoring as the appropriate action at State level. This is addressed primarily by prohibiting its entry to the State in produce. While sale and movement are prohibited uniformly across the State, regional actions vary according to the land uses in each region.

Only limited action is required in the Alinytjara Wilurara and SA Arid Lands regions, which have no habitats where ragwort could establish. In the other regions, there are provisions to destroy incursions if they arise.

Synonymy

Senecio jacobaea L., Sp. Pl. 2: 870 (1753)

Taxonomic synonym:

Jacobaea vulgaris Gaertn., Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 445 (1791)

Other common names include benweed, St James' wort, ragweed, staggerwort and tansy ragwort.

Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 28 March 2021