

# 2014 Regional Snapshot

## What are the distribution and abundance of weeds?

Weeds compete with our native and agricultural plants. They contribute to land degradation, reduce farm and forest productivity, contaminate crops and grains, increase bushfire fuel and can be toxic to people, livestock or native animals. In 2004, weeds were estimated to cost Australian farmers about \$4 billion every year.

In 2007, about 90 per cent of agriculture businesses in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region reported implementing some weed controls.

There are a number of locally important weeds established in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region including 11 Weeds of National Significance. Weeds of National Significance are nationally recognised as the most serious threats to biodiversity and/or the economy.

This information should be read alongside reports on the [management of weeds and pest animals](#).



Trend in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance



State target

Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impact of existing pests

Trend (2008-12)

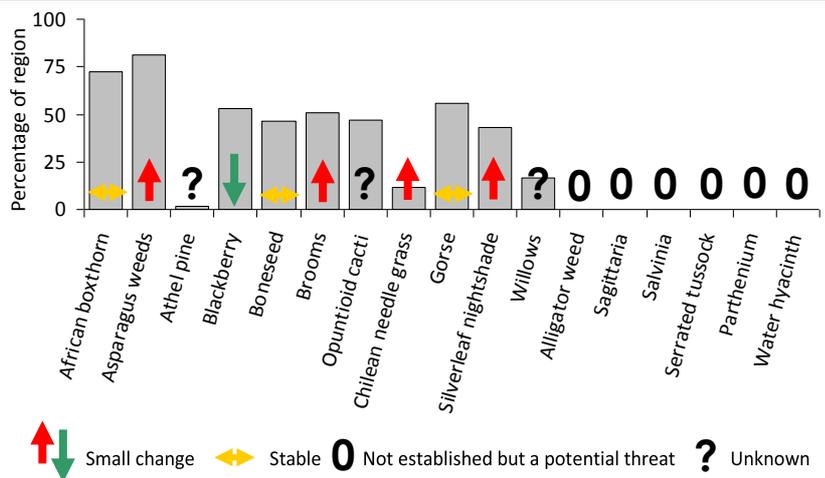
Variable

The trends for Weeds of National Significance vary between species: 4 species are increasing, 1 is decreasing, and 3 are stable

Trends in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region vary depending on the species (map above).

The distribution and abundance of asparagus weeds, brooms, Chilean needle grass and silverleaf nightshade have increased between 2008-12. Blackberry has decreased. African boxthorn, boneseed and gorse are stable (arrows on graph).

There are 6 Weeds of National Significance that are not established in the NRM region but are considered a potential threat.



↑ Small change ↓ Small change ↔ Stable 0 Not established but a potential threat ? Unknown

Where we are at (2012)

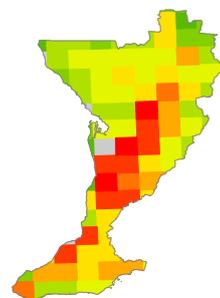
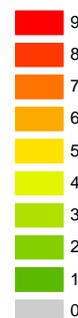
Poor

Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, 11 Weeds of National Significance have been recorded throughout the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region. Asparagus weeds, African boxthorn, gorse, blackberry and brooms have all been recorded in more than half of the region (graph above, map on right).

There are Weeds of National Significance throughout the NRM region, with higher numbers found in metropolitan Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges (map on right). Some weeds are recorded in smaller areas because they are restricted by habitat requirements such as climatic or soil conditions, or to waterways.

The areas where Weeds of National Significance have been recorded (map to right) do not reflect the impacts of recent control efforts.



The number of Weeds of National Significance in each 10x10 km area, 2000-12

Reliability of information



Poor, there are insufficient data on the abundance and trends of weeds

Further information: [Technical information for this report](#), [Weeds in South Australia](#)