

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 SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region reported implementing some weed control.

There are a number of locally important weeds established in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region, including 12 Weeds of National Significance. Weeds of National Significance are nationally recognised as the most serious threat to biodiversity and/or the economy.

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



State target

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



Trend in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance



Trend (2008-12)

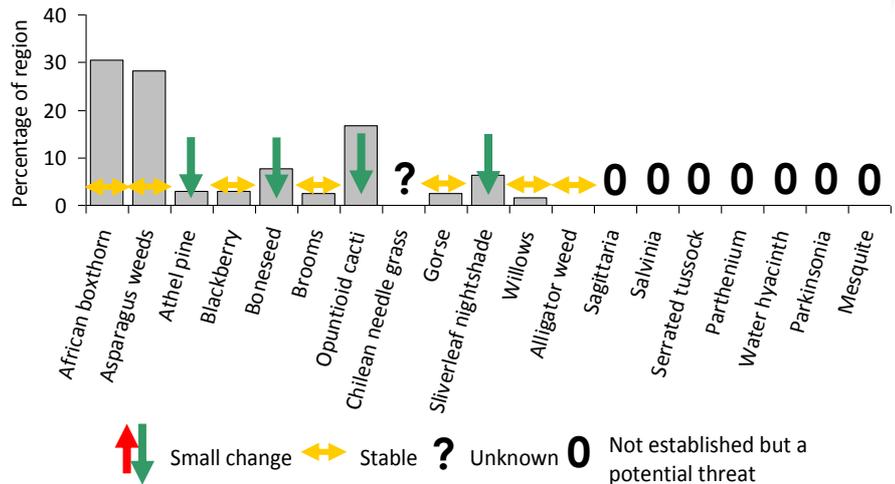
Getting Better

The trends for Weeds of National Significance vary between species: 4 are decreasing and 7 are stable

Trends in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance in the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region are generally improving (map above).

The distribution and abundance of opuntoid cacti, boneseed, sliverleaf nightshade and athel pine have been reduced by control efforts. African boxthorn, asparagus weeds, blackberry, brooms, gorse, willows and alligator weed are stable (arrows on graph).

There are 7 Weeds of National Significance that are not established in the NRM region but are considered a potential threat.



Where we are at (2012)

Poor

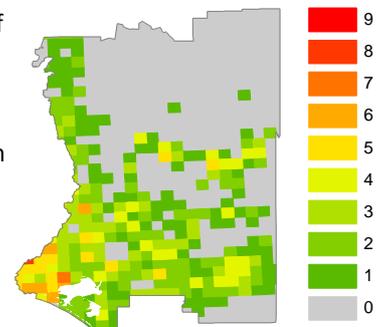
Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, African boxthorn, a number of asparagus weeds and opuntoid cacti have been recorded in 15 to 30 per cent of the SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM region (graph above, map on right).

Weeds of National Significance are generally most common in the areas with higher rainfall and greater disturbance, such as areas around outer Adelaide, Goolwa and the Riverland (map to right). Some weeds have only been recorded in small areas because they are restricted by climatic and soil conditions.

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](#)