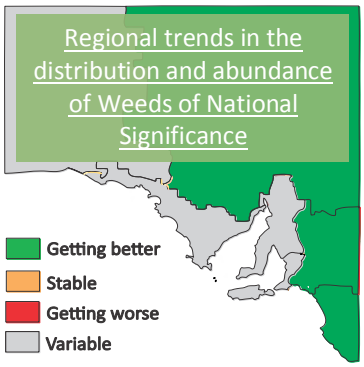
2013 State Report Card

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 may be toxic to people, livestock or native animals. In 2004, weeds were estimated to cost Australian farmers about $4 billion every year.

About 1500 introduced plant species are established in South Australia. About 10 per cent of these are weeds that pose a threat to native plants and animals, agriculture or recreational activities. Of these, 15 are regarded as Weeds of National Significance. These weeds are nationally recognised as the most serious threats to biodiversity and/or the economy.

It is important to prevent new weed species from arriving and becoming established in South Australia. In 2011–13, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA reported six significant weed incursions. These have been destroyed or are being monitored.



State target

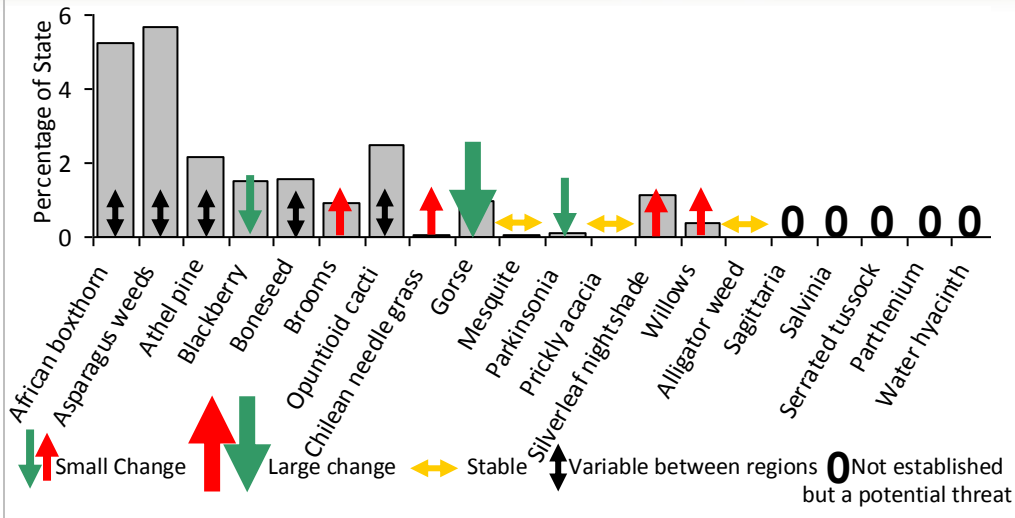
Limit the establishment of pests and diseases and reduce the impact of existing pests

Trend (2008–12)	Variable	The trends for Weeds of National Significance vary between species: 4 species are increasing, 3 are decreasing, 3 are stable and 5 are variable

The distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance are getting better in some regions (map above).

Based on records from 2000-12, the most widespread Weeds of National Significance are African boxthorn and a number of asparagus weeds (graph to right).

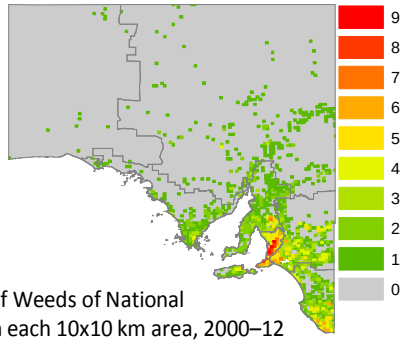
The distribution and abundance of gorse has been reduced by regional or local eradication efforts. Blackberry is also getting better, while silverleaf nightshade is getting worse.



Where we are at (2012)	Poor	Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Weeds of National Significance are generally most common in the areas with higher rainfall and greater disturbance such as Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and the State's agricultural areas (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 card, Weeds in South Australia

This report is a work in progress. As resource monitoring improves, so too will our ability to describe trends in condition.

Government of South Australia