

Weed Sheet

Declared weed sheet : African Rue



Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

African Rue

(*Peganum harmala*)

African rue is an unpalatable drought resistant shrub with a deep perennial root stock which out-competes native fodder shrubs and grasses in the rangelands grazing areas.



African Rue



What is it?

African rue is a vigorous summer growing shrubby plant with a perennial root system. It is drought tolerant and reproduces via seeds and by suckering from the extensive root system.

What does it look like?

Growth: Shrub with stiff branched stems, from 150 to 600mm high.

Leaves: Deeply divided bright green succulent leaves arranged alternately on the stems, which have a disagreeable odour when crushed.

Flowers: White flowers about 25mm in diameter borne singly amongst the leaves.

Fruit: Flowers form into a three chambered capsule opening at the top. Each chamber contains 45 – 60 seeds.

Root: Deep branched perennial taproot.

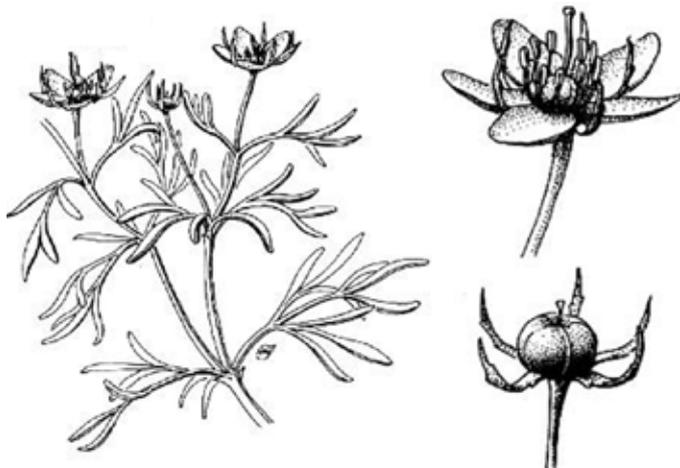
Why is it a problem?

African rue is highly unpalatable to stock and is also avoided by rabbits. Reports of alkaloid poisoning have occurred in the United States of America, but are rare due to the plants' unpalatability.

It is tolerant of low unreliable rainfall and competes with pastures for moisture and nutrients. It has been shown to exhibit allelopathic properties, which retards or inhibits growth of other vegetation.

It is difficult to control once established, thus infestations on clean properties should be destroyed when found.

Affected land uses : Rangelands grazing and Crop/Pasture land uses.



Where is it found?

African rue can be found in isolated patches within several Hundreds of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SA MDB NRM) Board region, predominately in the marginal cropping country and northern grazing areas.

How is it spread?

African rue is native to northern Africa, the Middle East and Tibet. It was first observed in New South Wales in 1933. It is unknown how and when it entered South Australia.

The seeds can be moved by surface water, in mud adhering to animals, farm machinery and vehicles also via animal dung.

Localised spread can also occur when pieces of the rootstock are severed and moved during cultivation.

How do we control it?

Prevention:

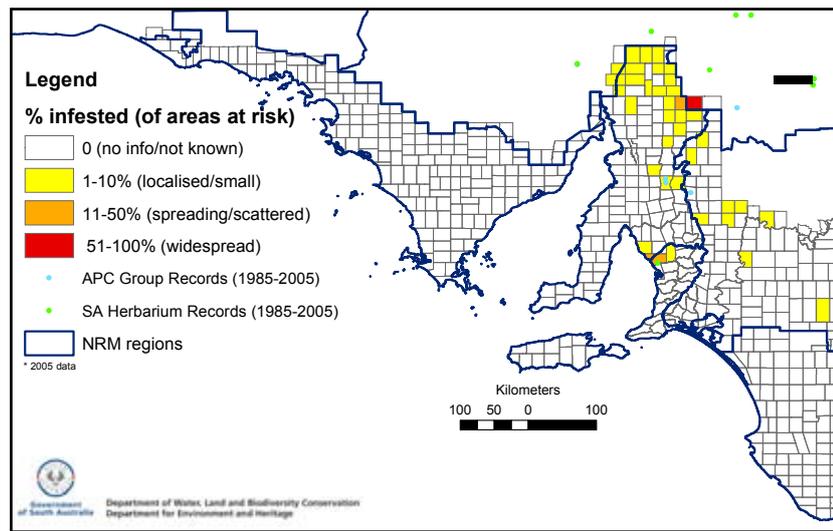
Prevent entry on to your property by ensuring your purchases of hay/fodder, stock and machinery are free of weed seed. Once established African rue is difficult to control. Maintaining a good ground cover and preventing seed set are crucial in stopping the spread and establishment of African rue.

Physical control:

Control of individual plants and small infestations may be achieved by digging out, hand pulling, burning, slashing, heavy grazing, or repeated cultivation. Sowing a dense cover crop will assist in preventing the re-establishment of African rue.

Chemical control:

There are currently no registered products for the control of African rue in South Australia. However it is reported that spot spraying with Glyphosate prior to flowering may provide some control, repeat applications are necessary for effective control. Imazapyr has been shown to be effective on isolated roadside infestations.



Infestation Level of AFRICAN RUE (*Peganum harmala*) by hundreds in the State of South Australia*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
							*				

*Dependent upon adequate moisture

Yearly Weed Life Cycle of AFRICAN RUE (*Peganum harmala*) in the State of South Australia

■ Germination	■ Active growth
■ Flowering	■ Seed set

Biological control:

There are currently no known biological agents under evaluation for the control of African rue.

For more advice on recognising and controlling African rue, contact your local Natural Resources Management Board Officer.

References:

Parsons, W.T., Cuthbertson, E.G. (2001) Noxious Weeds of Australia, 2nd Ed. CSIRO Publishing. www.publish.csiro.au

Contact us



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Legislation

African Rue is declared under the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Act 2004.

Declared Plant Class: 3b
Declared Plant Category: 2

The following provisions of the NRM Act 2004 are to be applied to the whole of the State:

- 175(2) - relates to the movement of plants on public roads within a control area.
- 177(1)(2) - relates to the sale of plants, or produce or goods carrying plants.
- 182(2)(3) - relates to the obligation of an owner of land to control and keep controlled the plant and take any measures prescribed by the relevant authority.
- 185(1) - relates to the ability of the NRM authority to recover costs of control on roadsides from adjoining landholders.

The following provisions of the NRM Act 2004 are to be applied in council areas specified within the 'South Australian Government Gazette':

- 180(1) - relates to the notification of a plants presence to a relevant NRM authority.



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities Help Australia

An Australian Government Initiative

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