

2016 State Report Card

What are the distribution and abundance of weeds?

Weeds compete with our native and agricultural plants. They contribute to land degradation, impact cultural sites, 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.

About 1500 introduced plant species are established in South Australia. About 10 per cent of these pose a threat to native plants and animals, agriculture or recreational activities. In South Australia, there are **16** weeds regarded as *Weeds of National Significance* that are nationally recognised as the most serious threats to biodiversity and/or the economy.

The most effective way to managed weeds is to prevent new weed species from arriving and becoming established in South Australia. In 2015–16, there were six incursions of Weeds of National Significance on the Alert list (non-established) across South Australia. These have been destroyed or are being monitored.



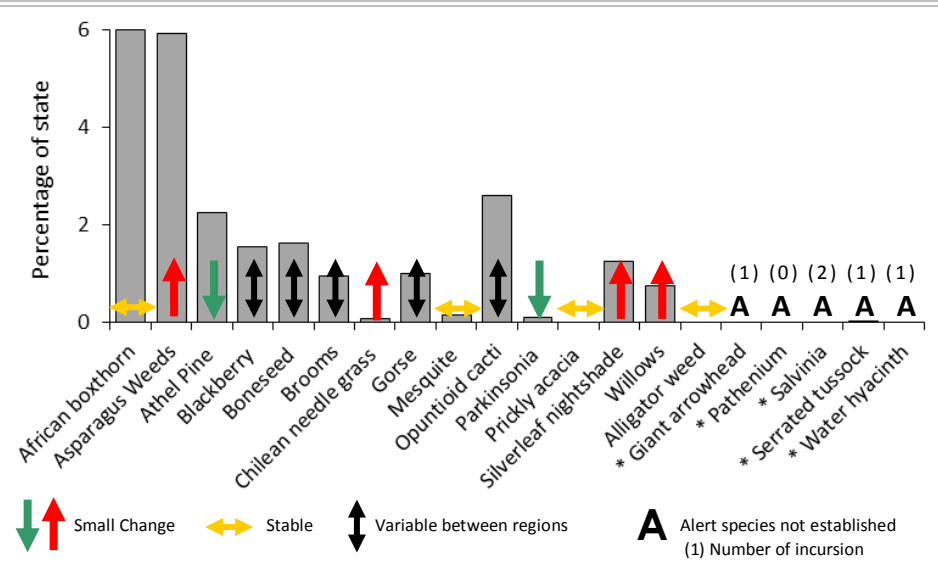
Regional trends in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance



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

Trend (2012–16) Variable Distributions and abundance of 4 Weeds of National Significance are increasing, 2 are decreasing, 4 are stable and 5 are variable

The distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance are decreasing in northern South Australia and they are variable in the south (map above).
In 2015–16, the most widespread Weeds of National Significance were African boxthorn and a number of asparagus weeds (graph to right).
The distribution and abundance of Parkinsonia has reduced due to local and regional control efforts. Athel pine is also decreasing, while silverleaf nightshade, willows and asparagus weeds are getting worse.



Where we are at (2016) Variable Some weeds are widespread and some have local distributions

Risk assessments assist Natural Resource Management boards to set priority levels, management activities and objectives of control programs for each weed. The proportion of priority programs that met their objectives ranged between 53 and 57 per cent (graph on right). Regional management priorities to contain or eradicate weeds such as Aleppo pines and blackberries are often only able to be achieved at specific sites and not across whole regions.
When a weed species is no longer considered cost-effective to eradicate, the control objectives may change to protect key sites or assets.



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](#)