

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.

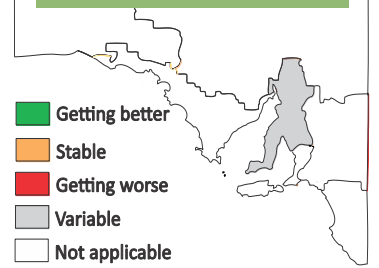
In 2007, about 90 per cent of agriculture businesses in the Northern and Yorke NRM region implemented weed control.

There are a number of locally important weeds established in the Northern and Yorke NRM region, including 12 Weeds of National Significance. Weeds of National Significance are nationally recognised as the most serious threat to biodiversity and/or 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)

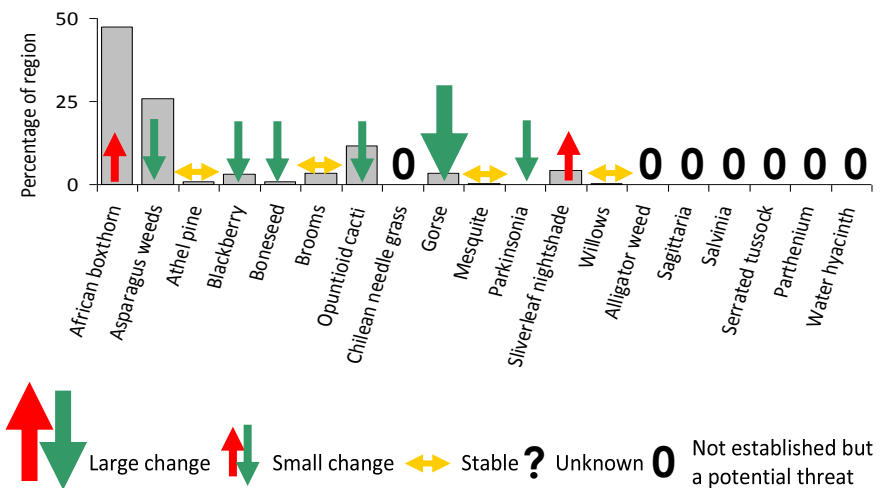
Variable

The trends for Weeds of National Significance vary between species: 2 species are increasing, 6 are decreasing and 4 are stable

Trends in the distribution and abundance of Weeds of National Significance in the Northern and Yorke NRM region vary between species (map above).

The distribution and abundance of gorse have been heavily reduced by control efforts. A number of asparagus weeds, blackberry, boneseed, opuntoid cacti and parkinsonia have also decreased but African boxthorn and silverleaf nightshade have increased in distribution and abundance (arrows on graph).

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



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

Where we are at (2012)

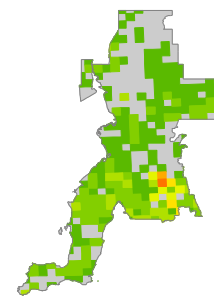
Poor

Managing weeds continues to be a complex challenge

Based on records from 2000-12, African boxthorn and asparagus weeds have been recorded in 47 and 26 per cent of the Northern and Yorke NRM region, respectively (graph above, map to right).

Weeds of National Significance are generally most common in the areas with higher rainfall and greater disturbance, for example around the Clare Valley (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](#)

