

# Declared Plant Policy

## under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004



### pond apple (*Annona glabra*)

Pond apple is a thicket-forming tree with a mangrove-like habit, adapted to fresh or slightly saline wetlands in the tropics. It is native to Central America, and also naturalised in Africa and Asia. It does not grow wild in SA.

### Management Plan for Pond Apple

#### Outcomes

- Prevention of national trade in Weeds of National Significance

#### Objectives

- Prevent any supply of pond apple by growers in SA to other States/Territories where it is an invasive weed.

#### Implementation

- Compliance action in the event pond apple plants being produced in SA for sale.

#### Regional implementation

NRM Region	Actions
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	prohibit sale
Alinytjara Wilurara	prohibit sale
Eyre Peninsula	prohibit sale
Kangaroo Island	prohibit sale
Northern and Yorke	prohibit sale
South Australian Arid Lands	prohibit sale
South Australian Murray Darling Basin	prohibit sale
South East	prohibit sale

#### Declaration

To implement this policy, pond apple is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* throughout the whole of the State of South Australia. The movement or transport of the plant on a public road by itself or as a contaminant, its entry to South Australia, or sale by itself or as a contaminant are prohibited.

Pond apple is declared in category 3 under the Act for the purpose of setting maximum penalties and for other purposes. Any permit to allow its movement or sale can only be issued by the regional NRM Board pursuant to section 188.

The following sections of the Act apply to pond apple throughout each of the the NRM regions noted below:

## pond apple policy

Sections of Act	Region							
	AMLR	AW	EP	KI	NY	SAAL	SAMDB	SE
175(1) Prohibiting entry to area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
175(2) Prohibiting movement on public roads	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
177(1) Prohibiting sale of the plant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
177(2) Prohibiting sale of contaminated goods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
180 Requiring notification of infestations								
182(1) Landowners to destroy the plant on their properties								
182(2) Landowners to control the plant on their properties								
185 Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves								

### Review

Success of the program will be measured by its effectiveness in stopping any reported supply of pond apple from SA to other States/Territories. This policy is to be reviewed by 2020, or in the event of a change in the status of pond apple as a Weed of National Significance.

### Weed Risk

#### Invasiveness

Pond apple is dispersed by seed carried by water and animals. Infestations arise in relatively undisturbed native vegetation on floodplains and the margins of wetlands. The main infestations are on creeks in rainforest and monsoonal open forest on the northern and central coasts of Queensland. It could also grow as a weed in north coastal New South Wales and the Northern Territory around Darwin and Arnhem Land.

#### Impacts

Pond apple invades and displaces native vegetation in tropical Australia. It replaces some natural mangroves communities, and also occupies other wetland communities that have been damaged by rising saline water tables.

#### Potential Distribution

Pond apple is not frost hardy, and would need glasshouse protection to grow in South Australia.

### Feasibility of Containment

Item 2.2.5 of the national strategy on pond apple (ARMCANZ, 2001) calls for the prevention of cultivation and trade. The declaration of pond apple under the Natural Resources Management Act in 2005 was intended to prevent any possibility of a wholesaler producing pond apple plants in South Australia for supply to those parts of Australia where it is weedy. No production nursery in this State is growing pond apple as there is no demand for this plant in our Mediterranean-type climate where the *Annona* fruit crops are not grown.

## State Level Risk Assessment

Assessment using the Biosecurity SA Weed Risk Management System gave the following comparative weed risk and feasibility of containment scores by land use:

Land use	Weed Risk	Feasibility of control	Response at State Level
Aquatic	negligible 0	very high 0	monitor

Pond apple is unlikely to survive anywhere in the wild in South Australia, and has no potential as a weed in this State.

## Considerations

Pond apple was introduced as a rootstock for grafting the commercially grown *Annona* fruits: *A. cherimola* (cherimoya, called 'custard apple' in Australia), *A. reticulata* (bullock's heart) and *A. squamosa* (sweet sop), as it is more tolerant of waterlogging and salinity than these species. It is also grown in home gardens in Queensland where its fruit is occasionally sold under the name of caramel custard apple.

Pond apple has no commercial value in South Australia, and could only be grown in heated glasshouses here. There is no likelihood of the nursery industry in this State wishing to produce it.

Pond apple is one of the Weeds of National Significance, which are subject to a uniform prohibition on sale in all jurisdictions as agreed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. In line with the national strategy on pond apple, sale of the plant and its seed is prohibited in South Australia as in other jurisdictions.

Pond apple has been declared under the Natural Resources Management Act in compliance with the national strategy.

## Synonymy

*Annona glabra* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 537 (1753).

Taxonomic synonyms:

*Annona klainei* Pierre ex Engl. & Diels, in Engl. Monogr. Afr. Pfl. 6: 80 (1901)

*Annona palustris* L., Sp. Pl. (edn 2) 1: 757 (1762).

## References

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand Australia & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers (2001) 'Weeds of National Significance Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*) Strategic Plan.' (National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee: Launceston)

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