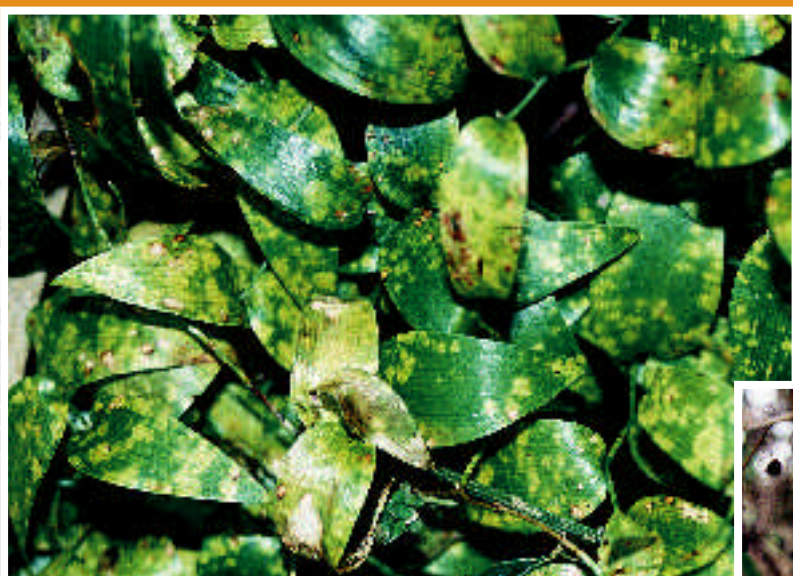


Asparagus Weeds

Best Practice Management Manual



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities Helping Australia



Government of South Australia

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation



A. asparagoides
A. africanus
A. densiflorus
A. declinatus
A. plumosus
A. scandens
A. virgatus

Asparagus Weeds

Best Practice Management Manual

September 2006

ISBN 1 921218 20 7

Produced by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
on behalf of the National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee

Foreword

The information presented in this manual is of a general nature aiming to give readers an understanding of the best practice management methods currently in use for Asparagus weeds. Information provided for herbicides use is based on field research. These may not match with current herbicide label recommendations. Individual State legislation may demand that an off label permit be obtained from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) prior to use. Please adhere to this advice for your own safety and for the good of the environment.

No permission from the APVMA is required for the use of biological control agents associated with bridal creeper, on condition that it is not packaged and sold as a commercial product.

Many of Australia's most invasive weeds, in both agriculture and in the natural environment, have been deliberately introduced as garden plants. This manual aims to assist land managers in identifying, controlling and managing one of the worst groups of these garden escapees; ornamental Asparagus weeds including the Weed of National Significance (WoNS) bridal creeper.

In 2000, bridal creeper was declared a WoNS by the Australian Government. With this declaration came the development of the Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* Strategic Management Plan, to ensure a nationally consistent approach to managing bridal creeper and preventing the spread of other Asparagus weeds. The implementation of the plan is overseen by the National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee (NAWMC). The Committee is made up of representatives from all affected States, researchers and community members who volunteer their time. The only full time employee is the National Bridal Creeper and Asparagus Weeds Management Coordinator, who acts as the executive officer to the Committee. Funding for the operation of the Committee is provided by the Natural Heritage Trust, the Federal Defeating the Weed Menace programme and in-kind contributions from State agencies. Community groups contribute through their time and expertise.

The strategy has three main aims: raising awareness of Asparagus weeds, reducing the spread of the weeds and decreasing their impact through the development of control options such as the biological control agents for bridal creeper. Success has been achieved in all three of these aims, particularly in the area of biological control redistribution undertaken by the CSIRO Entomology division and the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria. This manual forms part of our first objective, to raise awareness of the weeds and offer some best practice management advice on what to do about them.

The first section of this manual contains practical information on how to develop a weed management plan and is aimed at land managers who may be embarking on a new project or tackling a weed incursion for the first time. This section will ensure that work can be undertaken in a systematic manner to ensure long-term results and reduce duplication of effort. The sections that follow consist of identification and management information for individual Asparagus weed species.

This is the first edition of this manual. It has been developed with the most accurate information available at the time of going to print. Because weed management is a dynamic field with continuous advances in control methods, the sections dedicated to the individual Asparagus weeds have been lodged on the bridal creeper page on the Weeds Australia website, which is located at <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/>. These pages will be updated as new information and research findings become available. Please visit this site and download any updated sections before commencing field work.



Dennis Gannaway
National Bridal Creeper and Asparagus Weeds Management Coordinator

A copy of the Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* Strategic Management Plan is available online at -
<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/>

Acknowledgments

The National Asparagus Weeds Committee wishes to thank the following for their contributions to this publication

Dennis Gannaway – National Asparagus Weeds Management Coordinator, Editor and author of section 7.

Gabrielle Vivian-Smith and Tanya Grimshaw - Queensland Department of Natural Resources Mines and Water , Author of sections 5 and 6.

Susan Lawrie - Asparagus Weeds Working Group, Southern Hills Region, Author of sections 2,3 and 4.

John Virtue – Department of Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation.

John Scott - CSIRO Entomology.

Peter Martin and Jackie Watts – Weeds CRC.

Robin Coles and Kate Willing – Rural Solutions South Australia.

Louise Morin - CSIRO Entomology for proofing and comments.

Mae Adams - Chair Asparagus Weeds Management Committee for proofing and comments.

All photographs used have been sourced from a variety of people and organisations and copies are now housed at the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, South Australia. The Committee would like to thank the following for contributing photographs.

Kate Blood – DPI Victoria.

Louise Morin – CSIRO Entomology.

Katherine Batchelor – CSIRO Entomology.

John Virtue – DWLBC SA.

Jackie Watts – Weeds CRC.

Dennis Gannaway – National Coordinator.

Gabrielle Vivian-Smith – DNRMW Queensland.

Robin Coles – Rural Solutions South Australia.

Funding has been provided through the Federal Government's Defeating the Weed Menace programme with support from the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, South Australia.

The hand drawings of the Asparagus weeds have been reproduced courtesy of the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

Graphic design undertaken by the Communications and Marketing group of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.



Contents

Section 01 : **Developing a Weed Management Plan**

Section 02 : **Common Bridal Creeper**

Section 03 : **Bridal Veil**

Section 04 : **Asparagus Fern**

Section 05 : **Ground (Basket) Asparagus**

Section 06 : **Climbing Asparagus**

Section 07 : **Western Cape form of Bridal Creeper**