

Guideline

for the management of hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*)

Purpose and scope

This guideline has been prepared under section 15 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* (Qld) to support successful management of hymenachne, a Class 2 declared pest. It sets out an objective, and statutory and non-statutory actions which are consistent with the eight principles of pest management listed in section 9 of the Act.

Operational objective

- To prevent the spread of hymenachne into areas at risk of invasion.
- To gradually reduce the size of existing infestations, particularly where they have or could have significant economic or environmental impacts.

Operational actions

1. Integration

- Integrate the management of hymenachne with broader land management programs designed to reduce the amount of suspended sediment and nutrient run-off entering waterways and wetlands. (Heavy infestations of aquatic weeds are generally a reliable indicator of poor water quality.)

2. Public awareness

- Raise awareness so that the public can identify hymenachne, and have knowledge of its adverse effects.
- Target awareness campaigns at landowners in high-risk uninfested areas (particularly in the Wet Tropics regions), so they can recognise hymenachne and take swift action to eradicate new infestations.

3. Commitment

- Enforce compliance when landowners do not take reasonable steps to control hymenachne.
- Consider providing incentives to landholders to participate in coordinated control programs for hymenachne (e.g. lending them equipment such as high-pressure spray equipment).

4. Consultation and partnership

- Build working partnerships between key stakeholders to generate a holistic approach to the management of hymenachne and a sense of community ownership of the problem.
- Ensure adequate representation on the National Hymenachne Management Group.

5. Planning

- Refer to the national *Hymenachne Strategic Plan* for additional guidance.
- Map the extremities of hymenachne infestations.
- Monitor areas potentially at risk of new hymenachne infestations.
- Ensure that hymenachne management plans are consistent with plans in neighbouring areas.
- Secure adequate resources (i.e. time, funds and personnel) to carry out the actions in this guideline.

Guideline

6. Prevention

- Prohibit the cultivation (s. 41), distribution (s. 42), and sale or other supply (s. 44) of hymenachne, particularly as a ponded pasture plant and effluent treatment species.

7. Best practice

- Collate and distribute best practice information to landowners.
- Put in place measures to prevent any degradation of land, water, and desirable vegetation by control methods.

8. Improvement

- Research the ecology of hymenachne.
- Assess the seasonal impact of herbicides on the management of hymenachne.

Background

Hymenachne was introduced from South America in the 1970s. It has been used as ponded pasture to provide dry-season fodder for cattle; however, any benefits of the plant are greatly exceeded by its adverse effects. It has been listed as a Weed of National Significance (WONS) because it invades natural freshwater wetlands, low-lying cane fields, irrigation water storage bodies, and nursery areas for fish species such as barramundi. Total eradication of hymenachne from Queensland is no longer practical or economically feasible; still feasible, however, is reducing its range and spread—by declaration, the enforcement of compliance, and other activities identified in the national *Hymenachne Strategic Plan*.

Responsibility

Landowners: destruction of infestations.

Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.

DEEDI: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

References

Commonwealth of Australia and National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee 2001, WONS: *Hymenachne Strategic Plan*, National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, Launceston.

Csurhes, SM, Mackey, AP and Fitsimmons, L 1999, *Hymenachne in Queensland*, Pest risk assessment

Hymenachne fact sheet available at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

Maps

- Current distribution of hymenachne, available at www.dpi.qld.gov.au > Biosecurity > Weeds, pest animals and ants > Pest Mapping > Annual pest distribution maps > search for a map > select hymenachne species.
- Potential distribution of hymenachne, available at www.dpi.qld.gov.au > Biosecurity > Weeds, pest animals and ants > Pest Mapping > Predictive pest maps > Search for a weed map. Weeds are listed by common name.

The maps are updated as new information becomes available, and the latest maps must be accessed from the website.

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