

Guideline

for the management of sicklepod

(*Senna obtusifolia*, *S. hirsute*, and *S. tora*)

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 sicklepod, 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 sicklepod into uninfested areas.

Operational actions

1. Integration

- Integrate the management of sicklepod with broader land management programs designed to improve pasture vigour and crop hygiene; that is, treat the causes rather than merely the symptoms of the problem.

2. Public awareness

- Raise awareness so that the public are able to identify sicklepod, and have knowledge of its adverse effects and management.
- Target awareness campaigns at landholders in areas at risk of invasion so they can recognise sicklepod and prevent its spread.

3. Commitment

- Enforce compliance when landowners do not take reasonable steps to control sicklepod.

4. Consultation and partnership

- Build working partnerships between key stakeholders to generate a holistic approach to the management of sicklepod and a sense of community ownership of the problem.

5. Planning

- Map the extremities of sicklepod infestations.
- Monitor areas potentially at risk of new sicklepod infestations.
- Ensure that sicklepod 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.

6. Prevention

- Limit spread by developing and implementing hygiene and prevention practices (s. 46).
- Prevent the spread of sicklepod into uninfested properties by enforcing restrictions on the movement of products and machinery contaminated with seed (s. 46).

Guideline

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

- Keep up-to-date with research on the management of sicklepod.
- Complete seed longevity trials.

Background

Sicklepod's origins are unclear, but it is now found in tropical regions worldwide. It is abundant in coastal and subcoastal north Queensland, and has the potential to become even more prolific in these areas (see maps).

Under favourable conditions of soil disturbance and heavy grazing, sicklepod forms very dense stands that exclude all desirable vegetation. Complete eradication is no longer feasible given its abundance over a very large area; still feasible, however, is preventing or reducing spread.

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

Mackey, AP, Miller, EN, and Palmer, WA 1997, *Sicklepod in Queensland*, Pest risk assessment, DEEDI

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

Maps

- Current distribution of sicklepod, available at www.dpi.qld.gov.au > Biosecurity > Weeds, pest animals and ants > Pest Mapping > Annual pest distribution maps > search for a map > select Sicklepod species.
- Potential distribution of sicklepod, 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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