

Guideline

for the management of rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)

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 rubber vine, 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 contain the spread of rubber vine.
- To manage the impacts of established infestations.

Operational actions

1. Integration

- Integrate the management of rubber vine with broader land management programs which reduce overgrazing and reintroduce regular fires back into native pasture systems; 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 rubber vine, and have knowledge of its impacts and management.
- Target awareness campaigns at landholders in areas at risk of invasion so they can recognise rubber vine and prevent its establishment.

3. Commitment

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

4. Consultation and partnership

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

5. Planning

- Refer to the national *Rubber Vine Strategic Plan* for additional guidance.
- Map the extremities of rubber vine infestations.
- Monitor areas potentially at risk of new rubber vine infestations.
- Ensure that management plans for rubber vine 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 sale and other supply of rubber vine (s. 44).
- Destroy all infestations outside the national containment line.
- Eradicate small, isolated infestations.

7. Best practice

- Follow best practice when managing rubber vine.
- Put in place measures to prevent any degradation of land, water, and desirable vegetation by control methods.

8. Improvement

- Continue the present research into adaptive management of rubber vine.
- Monitor the effectiveness of biological control agents.

Background

Rubber vine is a woody climber native to Madagascar, which was introduced to Australia in the 1860s. It was named a Weed of National Significance (WONS) in 1999, and is one of Queensland's worst environmental weeds, distributed over some 700 000 ha of the state. It forms dense thickets, especially along the banks of watercourses.

This weed replaces native riparian vegetation on a massive scale, and severely affects pasture production. Eradication from Queensland is no longer practical due to the size and remoteness of infestations; however, preventing spread and reducing its adverse effects are realistic objectives.

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: Rubber Vine Strategic Plan*, National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, Launceston.

Rubber vine in Queensland, Pest risk assessment, DEEDI

Managing Rubber Vine, DEEDI.

Rubber vine fact sheet available at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

Maps

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