

# Leather Leaf Sedge - Statutory Weed Management Plan

## ***Carex buchananii* Bergg.**

### **Interpretation:**

In this Weed Management Plan (approved 30 August 2003):  
(amendments approved 21 June 2011):

- "Act" means the *Weed Management Act 1999*.
- "Approved quarantine place" means a place approved by the Secretary under section 70 of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* for the purpose of examining any prescribed matter imported into or to be exported out of the State.
- "Court fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the Act. Court fines may be imposed if a person is convicted of any offence against the Act.
- "DPIPWE" means the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.
- "Infringement fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the Act. Infringement fines are imposed by way of an infringement notice that may be issued by a Weed Inspector.
- "Inspector" means a Weed Inspector appointed under section 34 of the Act.
- "Penalty unit" means the basic unit of the fine for which persons who fail to comply with any prohibition or requirement under the Act may be liable. See [values of penalty units](#) under the *Penalty Units and Other Penalties Act 1987* for more details.
- "Quarantine Tasmania" means that branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment that, in cooperation with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, maintains both overseas and interstate quarantine barriers for this State.
- "[Regional Weed Management Officer](#)" means a person employed in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment under that specific title.
- "Regulations" means the *Weed Management Regulations 2007*.
- "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- "Zone A" includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which eradication of a declared weed is the principal management objective. These municipalities are either free of the declared weed, host only small, isolated infestations, or host larger infestations which are deemed eradicable because a strategic management plan exists and the resources required to implement it have been or are likely to be secured. See [Management of leather leaf sedge by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.

- “Zone B” includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which containment of the declared weed is the principal management objective. Such municipalities host large, widespread infestations of the declared weed that are not deemed eradicable because the feasibility of effective management is low at this time. These municipalities lack a strategic management plan for the weed and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication have not been secured. See [Management of leather leaf sedge by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.
- “Leather leaf sedge” means *Carex buchananii* Bergg. and includes whole plants and plant parts, live or dead.

## **1. Purpose of this management plan:**

The purpose of this Weed Management Plan for leather leaf sedge is to:

- Provide direction upon the implementation of the Act with respect to leather leaf sedge.
- Specify measures to prevent the establishment and spread of leather leaf sedge in Tasmania.

## **2. Area covered by this management plan:**

The State of Tasmania is covered by this management plan.

## **3. Description and distribution of the weed:**

Leather leaf sedge is an herb that has invaded pastures, native grasslands and open forests in New Zealand.

There are no known naturalised leather leaf sedge populations in Tasmania.

See the DPIPW [Leather Leaf Sedge Information Page](#) for more information on this weed.

## **4. Importation of declared weed:**

### **(1) A person must not import or allow to be imported into Tasmania any leather leaf sedge.**

*It is an offence against section 57(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted in court of that offence may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons travelling to Tasmania, in particular from areas infested with leather leaf sedge, should conduct thorough searches for the presence of the plant and apply appropriate hygiene measures, such as vehicle, baggage, footwear and clothing cleaning. In particular, any soil or plant material picked up from infested areas should be removed prior to entering Tasmania. Questions or concerns about hygiene issues should be directed to Quarantine Tasmania personnel before or directly upon disembarkation in Tasmania.
- Persons importing items to Tasmania that may contain leather leaf sedge should have these checked for the presence of the plant. This can be arranged through Quarantine Tasmania.
- Persons importing pasture or lucerne seed, from New Zealand in particular, should ensure that it does not contain leather leaf sedge.
- Persons importing ornamental plants should ensure their stock does not include leather leaf sedge.

**(2) A person must not import any livestock that may be carrying leather leaf sedge otherwise than in accordance with any measures prescribed under the Regulations.**

*It is an offence against section 57(3) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing this offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

The prescribed measures for importing stock under regulation 5 of the Regulations are as follows:

- a) the length of hairs in the coat is not to exceed 25 mm;
- b) seeds are not to adhere to the coat or anywhere else on the livestock;
- c) a permit for importation is obtained from the Secretary, DPIPW; and
- d) importation is direct to an approved facility for slaughter.

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons importing livestock to Tasmania should liaise with suppliers on the subject of possible leather leaf sedge contamination of stock, particularly in soil attached to hooves.
- Persons importing livestock should ensure their animals are

confined to holding pens until coat inspection and complete bowel evacuation occurs. Pens should be checked for the emergence of leather leaf sedge.

- Anyone importing stock to Tasmania should make him/herself familiar with regulation 5 of the Regulations as that applies to declared weeds.

**Note: The importation of this species into Tasmania is also restricted under the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997*. Quarantine Tasmania should be contacted for information on the relevance and application of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* to activities concerning plant species.**

## **5. Procedures for notification of the occurrence of the weed:**

Inspectors shall notify a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) of any leather leaf sedge occurrences. The Regional Weed Management Officer will then check the identity of the plant and if leather leaf sedge is confirmed the Principal Weed Management Officer will initiate a weed incursion response.

## **6. Sale, purchase, propagation, use, &c., of declared weed:**

### **(1) A person must not:**

**(a) sell New Zealand leather leaf sedge or any material or thing containing or carrying New Zealand leather leaf sedge; or**

**(b) purchase or offer to purchase New Zealand leather leaf sedge or any material or thing containing or carrying New Zealand leather leaf sedge; or**

**(c) grow, propagate or scatter New Zealand leather leaf sedge; or**

**(d) store New Zealand leather leaf sedge or any material or thing containing or carrying New Zealand leather leaf sedge; or**

**(e) hire or offer for hire any material or thing containing or carrying New Zealand leather leaf sedge; or**

**(f) use New Zealand leather leaf sedge or any material or thing containing or carrying New Zealand leather leaf sedge; or**

**(g) deal with New Zealand leather leaf sedge or any material or thing containing or carrying New Zealand leather leaf sedge in any manner that is likely to result in the spread of the declared weed.**

*It is an offence against section 56(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, using, or otherwise dealing with ornamental plants should verify that these do not include leather leaf sedge. Any plant identification queries may be referred to a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).
- Persons giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, using, or otherwise dealing with pasture seed or lucerne seed imported from areas in which leather leaf sedge occurs (e.g. New Zealand) should verify that these products are not contaminated with leather leaf sedge.

**(2) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under section 56(1) of the Act if the defendant establishes that he or she took all reasonable actions to prevent the commission of the offence.**

## **7. Measures to reduce the number of leather leaf sedge plants, eradicate leather leaf sedge from an area or restrict leather leaf sedge to a particular area:**

**An Inspector may, by serving a notice on the owner of any place, require that owner to implement any of the measures described in this part of the Weed Management Plan or any other measures consistent with it.**

*It is an offence against section 13(3) of the Act to fail to comply with a requirement notice issued by an Inspector. A person found committing that offence may be liable to an infringement fine of 8 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 5 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons discovering any plant resembling leather leaf sedge should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) without delay.
- Persons wishing to dispose of leather leaf sedge or any thing contaminated with leather leaf sedge should notify a Weed Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) first, in order to receive direction upon how best to do this.

## **8. Storage in a specified area of any thing contaminated with the declared weed:**

**Any thing found to be contaminated with leather leaf sedge may be removed to storage at an appropriate approved quarantine place. A [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) will determine whether removal to storage at any of these facilities or treatment/destruction of material *in situ* is most appropriate.**

*Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence against section 51(1) of the Act. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this requirement under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- A person who discovers or suspects he/she possesses any thing contaminated with leather leaf sedge should contact an Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) without delay. The contaminated thing should not be moved, treated or disposed of prior to making this contact. If leather leaf sedge is confirmed, the person will be directed and advised in the proper management, including disposal, of the contaminated thing.

## **9. Any other measures the Minister considers appropriate to control the weed:**

There are no other measures appropriate for the management of leather leaf sedge in Tasmania at this time.

## **10. Exemptions:**

Persons wishing to gain exemption from any of provisions of the Act that relate to leather leaf sedge should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) to discuss the reasons for seeking the exemption and obtain an exemption application form.

Persons granted an exemption should ensure they understand fully, any conditions specified in the exemption. Queries can be directed to a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).

### **11. Review of this Weed Management Plan:**

A review of this Weed Management Plan may be undertaken at least once every five years if it is necessary and desirable to do so. The review will incorporate consultation with stakeholders deemed appropriate by the Secretary, DPIPWE.

### **12. Management of leather leaf sedge by municipality:**

Each Tasmanian municipality is classified into one of two management zones (Zones A or B) for the purposes of implementing this Weed Management Plan for leather leaf sedge.

**Zone A Municipalities - eradication:** Eradication is the most appropriate management objective for Zone A municipalities which have little or no leather leaf sedge, or when a credible plan for eradicating existing infestations is being developed and implemented. The ultimate management outcome for Zone A municipalities is achieving and maintaining the total absence of leather leaf sedge from within municipal boundaries.

**Zone B municipalities - containment:** Containment is the most appropriate management objective for Zone B municipalities which have problematic infestations but no plan and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication. The management outcome for Zone B municipalities is ongoing prevention of the spread of leather leaf sedge from existing infestations to areas free or in the process of becoming free of leather leaf sedge.

The decision regarding which category is most appropriate for a particular municipality at a particular time is made jointly by DPIPWE and each municipality. Municipalities may change categories over time. For example, a Zone B municipality may decide to develop and implement a strategic plan for leather leaf sedge, with eradication as the objective. Provided the plan is credible, this municipality would qualify for inclusion in Zone A. Conversely, a Zone A municipality with widespread infestations may decide to stop supporting a strategic plan for leather leaf sedge eradication, in which case it would be re-classified as Zone B.

There are no known naturalised leather leaf sedge populations in Tasmania. Therefore all municipalities are currently classed as Zone A (eradication) for leather leaf sedge.