

Bridal Creeper - Statutory Weed Management Plan

Asparagus asparagoides (L.) Wight

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 2000*.
- "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- "WONS" means Weeds of National Significance. The WONS program is a federally funded initiative for the development and implementation of State and national strategies for the management of twenty of Australia's worst weeds.
- "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 bridal creeper 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 bridal creeper by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.
- "Bridal creeper" means *Asparagus asparagoides* L. Wight (syn. *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides* L. Willd., *Asparagus medeoloides* (L.f.) Thunb., *Dracaena medeoloides*, L.f., *Elachanthera sewelliae* F. Muell., *Luzuriaga sewelliae* (F. Muell.) K. Krause, *Medeola asparagoides* L.) and includes the whole plant or plant parts. It does not include products such as tablets, lotions, tinctures or other preparations that contain extracts of this plant or other dead, non-reproductive *Asparagus asparagoides* materials. People who are uncertain about whether products (e.g. dried materials) contain plant parts capable of producing a living plant should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).

1. Purpose of this management plan:

The purpose of this Weed Management Plan for bridal creeper is to:

- Provide direction upon the implementation of the *Act* with respect to bridal creeper.
- Encourage and facilitate an increase in the effectiveness with which bridal creeper is managed throughout Tasmania, with a view to eradicating all existing populations and preventing future infestations.
- Provide legislative support to the State Weeds of National Significance (WONS) strategy for bridal creeper.
- Provide legislative support to regional and local efforts to manage bridal creeper in a strategic and integrated manner that is commensurate with the State WONS strategy.

2. Area covered by this management plan:

The State of Tasmania is covered by this management plan.

3. Description and distribution of the weed:

Bridal creeper is a climbing, perennial herb that invades native vegetation including dry sclerophyll forest and coastal heath.

It is a significant problem in a number of Australian mainland locations, and is a serious environmental weed in Victoria and South Australia.

Bridal creeper is found mostly in northern Tasmania, generally occurring in coastal or near coastal environments. Its preferred habitats typically have a temperature range between 10 degrees and 20 degrees celsius and an average annual rainfall between 500 mm and 1500 mm. The most severe Tasmanian infestations occur in the Tamar Valley, on Flinders Island and on the east coast. Significant but smaller populations of this weed also occur in coastal areas between Devonport and Burnie. Refer to [Management of bridal creeper by municipality](#) (Section 12) for information on the distribution of bridal creeper by municipality.

See the DPIPW [Bridal Creeper 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 bridal creeper.

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 bridal creeper, such as Victoria and South Australia, should conduct thorough searches for the presence of the plant and apply appropriate hygiene measures, such as clothing, vehicle, machinery and baggage inspection and cleaning. Mud and soil, in particular, are to be removed prior to entry to Tasmania. Questions or concerns about weed hygiene issues should be directed to Quarantine Tasmania personnel before or directly upon disembarkation in Tasmania.
- Persons importing fresh or dried ornamental plants to Tasmania should ensure their stock does not include bridal creeper.
- Persons importing items to Tasmania that may contain bridal creeper should have these checked for the presence of the plant. This can be arranged through Quarantine Tasmania.

(2) A person must not import any livestock that may be carrying bridal creeper 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, DPIPWE;
- 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 bridal creeper contamination of stock. Bridal creeper material can be transported on mud attached to animals and in the digestive tracts of birds that eat the fruit.
- Persons purchasing livestock imported from areas infested with bridal creeper should ensure their animals are confined to holding pens until they have undergone thorough external inspections and complete bowel evacuation. Pens should be checked subsequently for the emergence of bridal creeper.
- Anyone importing stock to Tasmania should make him/herself familiar with regulation 5 of the Regulations.

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 bridal creeper occurrences in municipalities or parts of municipalities where the weed is not yet recorded. Refer to Table 1 in [Management of bridal creeper by municipality](#) (Section 12) for distribution of bridal

creeper in Tasmania by municipality.

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

(1) A person must not:

(a) sell bridal creeper or any material or thing containing or carrying bridal creeper; or

(b) purchase or offer to purchase bridal creeper or any material or thing containing or carrying bridal creeper; or

(c) grow, propagate or scatter bridal creeper; or

(d) store bridal creeper or any material or thing containing or carrying bridal creeper; or

(e) hire or offer for hire any material or thing containing or carrying bridal creeper; or

(f) use bridal creeper or any material or thing containing or carrying bridal creeper; or

(g) deal with bridal creeper or any material or thing containing or carrying bridal creeper in any manner that is likely to result in the spread of the declared weed.

It is an offence against section 5(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 ensure their stock does not include bridal creeper. This includes roadside stalls, market stalls, fundraising events, garden club swaps, nursery sales, supermarket plant sales and ANY OTHER activities that involve the distribution of ornamental plants.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural or roading machinery likely to be contaminated with

mud or soil containing bridal creeper should ensure that this equipment is free of this plant by undertaking appropriate inspection and hygiene measures. These include introducing thorough visual checks and cleaning of machinery as routine tasks when preparing these items for sale or distribution.

- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with livestock that may be carrying bridal creeper should ensure appropriate hygiene measures are undertaken to prevent spread of this plant. These include cleaning stock prior to transport from infested properties.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, using, or otherwise dealing with soil, gravel, lime or other such materials from areas infested with bridal creeper should seek alternative stock sources unless they can guarantee these materials are free of bridal creeper.
- Persons involved in the giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural or roading machinery, stock, soil, gravel or other such materials likely to be contaminated with bridal creeper should take direction from any local, regional or State hygiene programs being implemented in the municipality.
- Persons purchasing or hiring any items (e.g. machinery, soil, gravel or other such materials) likely to be contaminated with bridal creeper should liaise with suppliers for guarantees of bridal creeper free goods and materials and keep accurate records of their purchase transactions. Buyers discovering bridal creeper contamination post-purchase should implement practices that reduce the potential for bridal creeper establishment and spread. These include, creating dedicated areas for the wash down of purchased machinery and vehicles and carefully monitoring any suspect soil, gravel or other such materials for the emergence of this weed.

(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 bridal creeper plants, eradicate bridal creeper from an area or restrict bridal creeper 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 who fails to comply

with that notice may be issued with 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.

Persons or organisations upon whose properties bridal creeper occurs, including ornamental plantings, should undertake the following:

- Planning and implementation of an integrated control program the aim of which is eradication of bridal creeper. Such a program should include an inventory of bridal creeper infestations in the area to which the plan relates, well-defined objectives, practicable control actions, follow-up actions, a realistic timeline and a budget, as a minimum. Property plans for bridal creeper should be made with reference to, and be consistent with, the Tasmanian Weed Management Strategy – Bridal creeper. [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) or Inspectors may be contacted for advice on developing integrated control plans.
- Seek information about supporting any council endorsed plans relating to bridal creeper management in their municipality.
- Seek cooperation with neighbouring property owners when bridal creeper control measures are being planned or implemented.

Other general measures:

- Persons or organisations responsible for managing land which is currently free of bridal creeper should undertake prevention measures, especially when that land is suited to bridal creeper establishment. Such prevention measures include:
 - Developing an ability to identify the plant;
 - Noting its occurrence and progress on nearby properties;
 - Undertaking control of small outbreaks without delay;
 - Arranging on-site quarantine for, or not bringing or allowing onto the property vehicles, machinery, soil, gravel, lime or other such material that may be contaminated with bridal creeper.

A [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) may be contacted for advice on keeping areas free of bridal creeper.

- Persons performing contract work of an agricultural, utility maintenance, roading or earthmoving nature, on-site consultations or assessments, deliveries or other visits in areas or properties infested with bridal creeper should undertake appropriate hygiene measures. These include thorough visual checks upon clothing, footwear, vehicles and machinery and, cleaning of the same of mud and soil in particular, prior to leaving the infested property. Developing a check-list will help ensure such routines are rigorous and consistent. Materials or

items likely to be contaminated with bridal creeper should not be moved from bridal creeper infested areas or to bridal creeper free areas until any contamination risks have been minimised.

- Persons wishing to dispose of bridal creeper or any thing contaminated with bridal creeper should contact an Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) first, in order to receive direction upon how best to do this. Note that municipal waste disposal facilities vary in their acceptance and handling of declared weeds. Municipal waste disposal managers should be contacted for details.
- Persons wishing to transport bridal creeper or any thing contaminated with bridal creeper, for the purpose of disposal, should ensure this is undertaken in a manner that does not permit the release and spread of bridal creeper material. Measures include securing material in bags or under tarpaulins prior to transport, checking material at regular intervals during long journeys, and adequately cleaning vehicles after materials have been unloaded.

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

Any thing found to be contaminated with bridal creeper 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, (e.g. machinery, soil, gravel) contaminated with bridal creeper should contact an Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#). The contaminated thing should not be moved, disturbed, treated or disposed of prior to making this contact. If bridal creeper is confirmed, the person will be directed and advised in the proper management, including storage or disposal options, 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 bridal creeper in Tasmania at this time.

10. Exemptions:

A person may apply for an exemption from any of provisions of the Act that relate to bridal creeper. He/she 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 bridal creeper 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 bridal creeper.

Zone A Municipalities - eradication: Eradication is the most appropriate management objective for Zone A municipalities which have little or no bridal creeper, 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 bridal creeper 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 bridal creeper from existing infestations to areas free or in the process of becoming free of bridal creeper.

The decision regarding which category is most appropriate for a particular municipality at a particular time is made jointly by DPIPW 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 bridal creeper, 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 bridal creeper eradication, in which case it would be re-classed as Zone B.

Table 1 lists the distribution and management measures for bridal creeper in Tasmanian municipalities currently classified as Zone A for bridal creeper. Note that all municipalities are currently classed as Zone A for bridal creeper.

Table 1. Distribution and management measures for bridal creeper in municipalities classified as Zone A at 01/2011.

Distribution based on Tasmanian Herbarium and DPIPW records.

Municipality	Bridal creeper distribution	Management measures*
Break O'Day	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Brighton	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Burnie	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Central Coast	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Central Highlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Circular Head	None recorded	Prevention and early detection

Clarence	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Derwent Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Devonport	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Dorset	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Flinders	Widespread infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
George Town	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Glenorchy	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Hobart	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Huon Valley	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Kentish	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
King Island	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences

Kingborough	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences.
Latrobe	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Launceston	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Meander Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Northern Midlands	Previously recorded, none now known	Prevention and early detection
Sorell	Isolated occurrences	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
Southern Midlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Tasman	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Waratah/Wynyard	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences
West Coast	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
West Tamar	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control plan for eradication and prevent future occurrences

*When a DPIPWE approved weed management strategy that has local council endorsement exists, management of this declared weed in the municipality concerned should occur with direct reference to that strategy.

The following distribution category is used in Table 1:

“None recorded”. This means the plant is not known to be naturalised in the municipality, either from the records of the Tasmanian Herbarium or from DPIPWE databases. In cases where the plant was known to be

naturalised at a previous time but is not known there currently, the description "Previously recorded, none known now" is used.

"Isolated occurrences". This means the species is uncommon in the municipality, with populations limited to one or a few. The number of plants is generally small and/or populations cover small areas.

"Localised infestations". This means the species is present in the municipality in moderate proportions, with populations numbering several. The number of plants is also moderate and/or populations cover moderate-sized areas.

"Widespread infestations". This means the species is very common in the municipality, with many populations present. The number of plants present is generally large and/or populations cover large areas.

Note that the distribution descriptions presented in Table 1 apply to naturalised populations of the plant only. They do not include amenity, garden, horticultural or other deliberate plantings unless specified. The descriptions are relative and provide a general indication only of the spatial status of the plant in the municipality. Detailed location information may be obtained by contacting a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#). In addition, if you have reason to believe any of the distribution information presented in Table 1 is incorrect, please advise a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).