

Pond Apple National Priority Framework 2008-10

Pond Apple is eradicated from Australia.

Goal 1

Alert the community of the impacts

Goal 2

Contain the spread

Goal 3

Infestations are systematically controlled

**Goal 4
Coordinate management**

- 1
- Improve access to education and awareness options to all stakeholders and the broader community.
 - Support local and regional pest management planning processes.
 - Impacts are identified and promoted as a major environmental threat
 - Engage groups through community events to assist with early detection and control.
- (2.1.1 – 2.1.5)

- Ensure mapping of distribution is maintained.
 - Identify priority areas for strategic control.
 - Research is maintained on biology and ecology.
 - Awareness material is available relating to vectors spreading pond apple and early detection protocols.
 - Sale and trade is stopped through awareness of legislation and maintaining contact with nursery/rare fruits associations.
- (2.2.1 – 2.2.5)

- Implement strategic control while developing best practice methods.
 - Priority areas are identified by regional planning and control objectives are promoted.
 - Conduct specific research for gaps in control knowledge.
 - Develop site re-habilitation guidelines for different habits.
 - Extend the impacts of pond apple to the community by promoting control efforts and the investment of areas protected.
- (2.3.1 – 2.3.9)

- Coordinate and maintain the NPAMG.
 - Assist a multiplier effect between stakeholders in terms of available resources for management.
 - Identify and support effective funding opportunities for management.
 - Promote communication and information exchange.
 - Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy.
- (2.4.1 – 2.4.2)

2

Conduct community control/field days while engaging community groups (i.e. fishing and aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders)

3

Detailed information regarding the Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*) National Priority Framework

Pond Apple is an aggressive, semi-deciduous tree that has the ability to invade estuaries and mangrove ecosystems of tropical Australia that have previously been undisturbed natural habitats.

Introduced prior to 1886 and native to Central Americas, pond apple was used as a root stock for the custard apple tree. Its fruit is similar to a smooth skinned custard apple which can float on ocean current for up to 1300 kilometres.

Pond apple distribution is prominently wet tropics, Cape York Peninsula and northern island communities of Queensland with a small infestation identified at Mackay. A single plant is located in the Brisbane Botanical Garden and single garden/nursery plants have been reported in New South Wales and Northern Territory.

Best practice pond apple control costs are high due to infested areas that are isolated, have limited access and are wetland areas that posed increased risk with health and safety to control operators.

Considerable control work as been conducted on strategic infestations by Local Government, community groups and other stakeholders. Control costs are high due to the nature of infestations and the need for target specific control methods that compliments the rehabilitation of control sites.

Awareness – Early detection

Priority 1 (2.1.1 – 2.1.5)

- Extension material is disseminated including management/case study manual and associated material.
- Regional planning provides a mechanism to identify priority management requirements.
- The environmental impact to northern Australia is enormous with considerable potential for distribution to expand. Early detection is critical to prevent inundation.
- Stakeholders are confident with implementing effective control options.

Containment of spread

Priority 1 (2.2.1 – 2.2-5)

- Annual mapping of distribution is completed.
- Control is implemented in priority management areas.
- National management strategies are developed from through adaptive management plans.
- Legislation is utilised by stakeholders as a management tool for priority areas.
- Research targets risk assessments for spread based on vectors.

Systematic control

Priority 1 (2.3.1- 2.3.9)

- Best practice management is developed and promoted by all stakeholders.
- Management manual and case studies are disseminated.
- Regional/catchment management plans facilitates local projects on the basis of strategic location and ability to achieve objectives.(i.e. eradication)
- Importance's of site rehabilitations is incorporated into research to aid effective control and this is extended to regional/local stakeholders.
- Projects are resourced and implemented based on planning outcomes.
- Land managers are aware of responsibilities under legislation and this is enforced by Authorities to assist in achieving program outcomes.
- Public awareness information is released to improve knowledge of impacts and management options.

Coordinate management

Priority 1 (2.4.1 – 2.4.2)

- National management group is implementing options in support of regional and local plans for the management of pond apple.
- Funding is sourced for priority areas while considering levels of expertise, in kind support and obtaining maximum outcomes.
- The WoNS program successes are promoted in support for the need of planning at all levels of management and to ensure continuation of scheme.
- Pond Apple management is incorporated into regional/local NRM plans to compliment integrated outcomes.