

The Bridal Creeper

newsletter of the national asparagus weeds management committee

back copies available from www.weeds.org.au/bridalcreeper/

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the fine print disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee nor those of any of the funding bodies associated with the Committee.

Advice offered in the newsletter is of a general nature and should not be exclusively used in any decision making process.

Best Practice Manual Launched

The *Asparagus Weeds Best Practice Management Manual* has finally rolled off the presses after a lengthy writing process involving many of Australia's leading authorities in weed management. What has been produced is a publication with the most up to date information for land managers on how to tackle six of the worst

environmental weeds. Included are both forms of bridal creeper, bridal veil, Asparagus fern (*A.scandens*), ground or basket Asparagus and climbing Asparagus. These species were chosen as representatives of the entire gambit of Asparagus weeds present in Australia. Also included is advice on developing a local weed management plan.



Available in hardcopy from the Asparagus Weeds Management Coordinator or simply download sections from the bridal creeper webpage !

Manual launch continued.....

The manual was publicly launched by Senator Eric Abetz, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation at the 15th Australian Weed Conference held in Adelaide in September.

The project was made possible through funding from the Federal Government's Defeating the Weed Menace program and support from the South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity conservation.

Particular thanks must go to the members of the Asparagus Weeds Management Committee who proof read pages and provided constructive criticism, Rosi Punturiero for her work in developing the design of the publication and getting it ready to print and the section authors Gabrielle Vivian Smith, Tanya Grimshaw and Susan Lawrie.

Printed copies of this publication are available from the National Coordinator free of charge. It can also be downloaded from the bridal creeper webpage at www.weeds.org.au/bridalcreeper/.

The target audience is all land managers faced with Asparagus weeds. Information presented would benefit both managers new to control work as well as seasoned "weedies". Please share the information with as broad an audience as possible.



Photo 1 : WoNS best practice manuals made up the backdrop to the podium at the opening of the 15th Australian Weeds Conference in Adelaide.



Photo 2 : Senator Eric Abetz (left) and Dennis Gannaway launching the manual at the 15th Australian Weeds Conference in Adelaide.

To place an order

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Update on Western Cape BC Management effort

Rural Solutions South Australia (RSSA) are busy conducting a door to door mapping exercises in the Tea Tree Gully area, north east of Adelaide to ascertain the growth range of the Western Cape form of bridal creeper.

The project became necessary after the discovery of the weed growing in a local recreation reserve, Anstey Hill, in June 2006. The discovery was made by the Friends of the Park group who had the foresight to send a sample to the South Australian Herbarium for identification.

A quick survey conducted by weed officers from a number of agencies found the weed had jumped the fence and was present in roadside vegetating up to 3 kilometers away from the original sight. This necessitated the wider search which RSSA is undertaking.

Final distribution maps are expected to be completed in December and a management plan for the area developed for the next growing season. The final documents will be available from the bridal creeper web page on completion.

This project is being funded by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board.

A meeting of all the parties involved in the management of the Western Cape form in the South East of SA and in Victoria will be held in November in Mount Gambier.

Chaired by the National Asparagus Weeds Coordinator, the meeting will discuss the management efforts undertaken this growing season, particular the difficulties encountered by officer, and plan what strategies will be used next year.

This meeting is an opportunity for land managers from a variety of State agencies on both sides of the border and local community groups to meet, network and develop joint management programs.

Asparagus Weeds Attract Envirofund funding

Three projects specifically aimed at the control of weedy Asparagus species attracted funding amounting to \$73000.00 in the recently announced Envirofund Round 8.

The projects were ;

- Friends of Aldinga Scrub - Control and Monitoring of Bridal Creeper in Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park.
- Pittwater Natural Heritage Association Community Action Program to control Ground Asparagus Fern in Pittwater
- Friends of Canunda and Beachport Parks - Protecting the Biodiversity of Canunda National Park. This project relates specifically to the control of the Western Cape form of bridal creeper in the park.

I am sure that these three projects are not the only ones to address Asparagus weeds. The three projects have been singled out because they had Asparagus or bridal creeper in their titles or were developed in consultation with the Coordinator.

Congratulations to everybody who received funding in this round.

Round 9 will open for applications in February 2007 and will cover the normal range of activities funded by the Envirofund. Register online at -

<http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/> to receive a copy of the Australian Government Envirofund Guide and Application Form for Round 9 when it becomes available.



The National Asparagus Weeds Management Coordinator is willing to help develop Envirofund projects relating to Asparagus weeds. Contact details on the front page.

Western Australia get tough on Asparagus

The Western Australian government recently announced a \$1.7m “war on weeds” blitz.

The blitz will focus on forty weeds, which in the words of the WA Environment Minister Mark McGowan “are the greatest threat to the State’s native plants and animals”.

Of particular significance to the National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee is the inclusion of *A. declinatus* (bridal veil) and *A. scandens* (Asparagus fern).

It is encouraging that these two environmental weeds have been targeted for control as they are both in the beginning stages of the invasion in WA.

We wish the Western Australian weed community the best of luck with this blitz and hope that they achieve the desired target of eradication.

South Australia forms bridal veil group

Weeds officers and concerned community members met on Kangaroo Island in October to discuss the management of *A. declinatus* (bridal creeper) in the State.

The meeting was held over two days. Day two saw the group touring major infestation sites on the island and examining the results of control work undertaken over the past couple of years.

Day one was spent developing a plan for consistently managing the weed across the State. This would entail joint projects such as developing State wide extension material, as opposed to multiple regional ones, sharing of successful management techniques and simply having a forum where all aspects of this weeds management could be discussed.

The meeting also proposed that this fairly informal group become a sub committee of the National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee (NAWMC). This suggestion has been welcomed by NAWMC and we look forward to working with them.

Asparagus Weeds Papers from 15th AWC

Four papers were presented at the 15th Australian Weeds Conference on subjects relating to bridal creeper management.

The four papers are -

1. **Impact of the rust fungus *Puccinia myrsiphylli* on the below-ground biomass of bridal creeper.** Louise Morin, Adele Reid and Anthony Willis.
2. **What is responsible for the low establishment rates of the South African *Crioceris* sp. leaf beetle on bridal creeper infestations in Australia ?** Micheal Neaves, Louise Morin and Adele Reid.
3. **Barrier to restoration: the decomposition rate of bridal creeper’s root system.** Peter J Turner, John K Scott and Helen Spafford Jacob.
4. **The distribution of western Cape form of bridal creeper *Asparagus asparagoides* in South Australia and Victoria.** Robin B Coles, Katrina L. Willing, John G Conran and Dennis Gannaway.

They are available as PDF downloads from the bridal creeper web page at www.weeds.org.au/bridalcreeper/.

Thanks to the Weed Management Society of South Australia for granting permission to reproduce the papers.

**A copy of the conference proceedings can be obtained from R.G and F.J Richardson at:
www.weedinfo.com.au**