

# The Bridal Creeper

newsletter of the national asparagus weeds management committee

March 2006 vol. 2 no.1

## contents

page 1 .....	bridal creeper declared
page 2..	western Cape Mapping Project
Page 3.....	Asparagus scandens
page 4.....	national committee news
page 4.....	workshop proceedings
page 4.....	help needed with mapping
page 4.....	funding opportunities
page 4.....	correction to Vol 1 No 3

## contact details

Dennis Gannaway  
Asparagus management coordinator.  
tel.  
(08) 8303 9748  
email  
gannaway.dennis@saugov.sa.gov.au

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.



newsletter funded by :-



## Bridal creeper declared across Australia

Its official, bridal creeper cannot be sold, traded or moved anywhere in Australia, in any form what-so-ever. Over and above this ban in South Australia, Tasmania and some Shires within New South Wales land owners are obliged to control any plants growing on their property. This has become a reality after the Victorian, Northern Territory, Western Australian and ACT governments recently passed new declarations for the weed.

The nation-wide ban on movement and sale was a crucial objective of the National Bridal Creeper Strategic Management Plan. Stopping the legal movement and the trade helps to reduce the risk of the plant being established in gardens and subsequently escaping into remnant bushland.

The National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee thanks all State and Federal agencies and Ministers who took these steps to help contain one of Australia most invasive weeds.

The table below sets out which Acts apply in each State and Territory.

State or Territory	Act	Declaration
South Australia	NRM Act, 2004	Land holder are obliged to control plants on their property. No movement of seed or plant material is permitted.
Victoria	Catchment and Land Protection Act, 1994	Prohibits movement and sale of plant material and seed within the State.
Western Australia	Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976	Prohibits movement of plant material and seed within the State.
Northern Territory	Weed Management Act, 1993	Plant may not be introduced to the territory. Any existing plants to be eradicated.
New South Wales	Noxious Weed Act, 1993	Plant is prohibited from sale and movement throughout the State. Land holder obliged to control the plant in some Shires in the Sydney region.
Queensland	Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act, 2002	Plant cannot be introduced into the State. Any plants growing must be eradicated.
Tasmania	Weed Management Act, 1999	Land holders are obliged to control any plants growing on their land. Ban apply to sale and movement of the plant.
ACT	Pest Plant and Animal Act, 2005	Prohibits plant from sale and movement within the territory.

For an overview of all declared plants in each State and Territory visit

<http://www.weeds.org.au/noxious.htm>

# Western Cape form of bridal creeper mapped

In 2004 a second variety of bridal creeper, the Western Cape form was identified growing in eight locations in south east South Australia and across the border around the town of Nelson in Victoria. Field observations showed that the rust fungus was not attacking this form to the same extent as common bridal creeper. This led to grave concerns that we may be facing the replacement of common bridal creeper by the Western Cape form.

A project was developed under the first round of the Federal *Defeating the Weed Menace* initiative to map the density and growth range of the weed in this area. This task has now been successfully completed by Rural Solutions South Australia.

What was found was that the weed is far more widespread than initially thought. In total, 224 locations were mapped covering an area of approximately 40ha in a range of habitats including road sides, pine forests and intact bushland.

Encouragingly, no major infestations were found

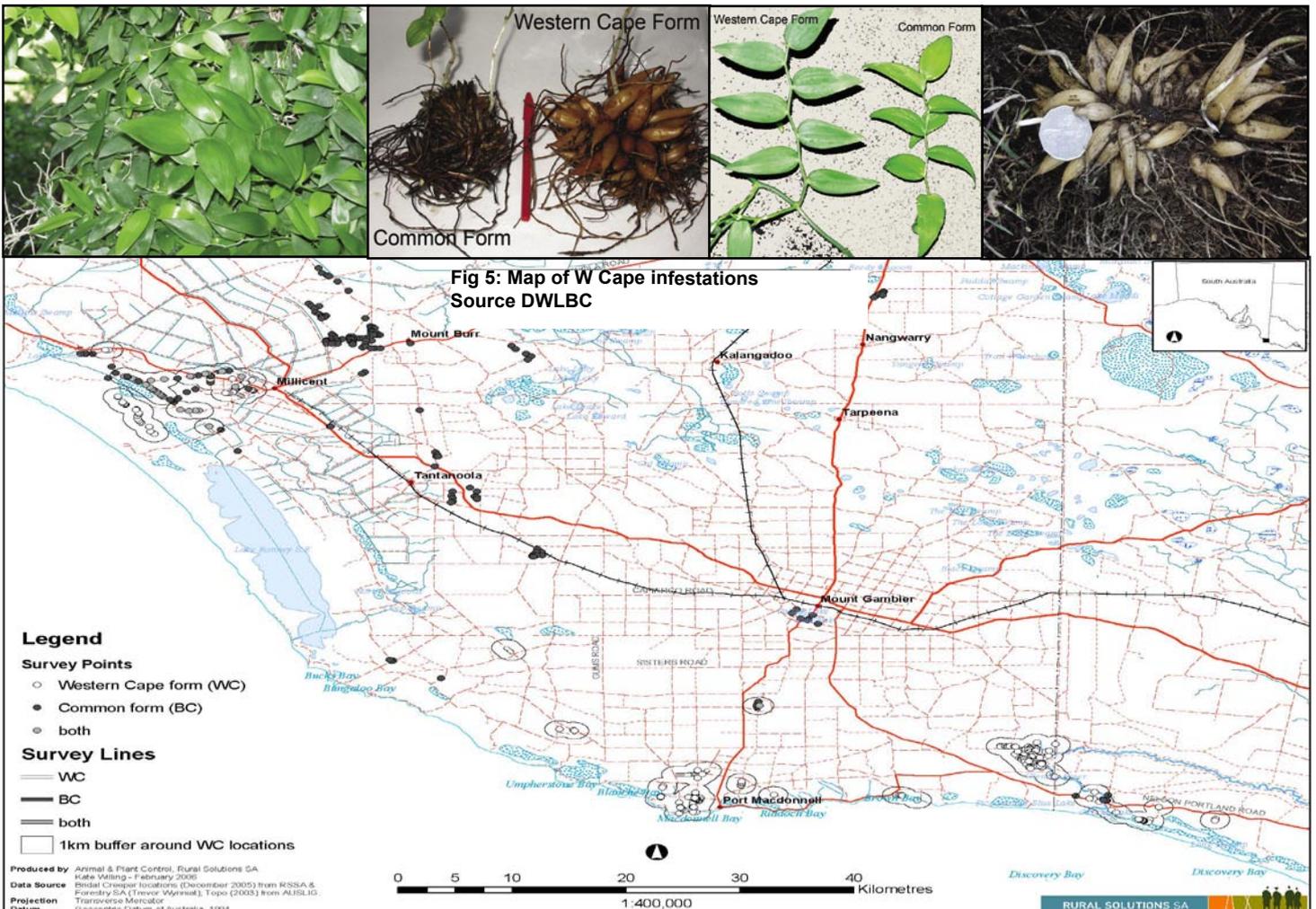
outside of the initial discovery area, indicating that this form is possibly confined to a single geographic area within Australia. A second observation made was that the weed appears to be confined to areas within an annual rainfall of over 700mm in a 15 km wide band along the coast.

Some troubling findings were that the Western Cape form did not die back as quickly as the common form. In some areas, particularly in native vegetation, it was still green and covered in fruit in February. In addition this form is a prolific seeder with huge amounts of seedlings being recorded germinating under mature plants.

The infestation appears to be in its early invasion stage. Careful planning and prompt action over the next few years will see this weed contained to small, manageable areas, with a view to eventual eradication.

The draft report is available as a PDF download from:

<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bridalcreeper/>



# Spot light on *Asparagus scandens*

Figure 1: *Asparagus scandens* Photo: DWLBC



Figure 3: Root Mass  
Photo : DWLBC



This close relative of bridal creeper is emerging as a problem weed in Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. It has also been recognised as invasive in New South Wales and Victoria. Currently contained to smaller infestations it has the potential to expand its range rapidly. Like bridal creeper and bridal veil, *A.scandens* produces fruit attractive to birds, rabbits and foxes. It also shares the other weeds ability to smother native vegetation and out compete plants for water, light and nutrients. The fibrous root and tuber mat prevents recruitment of native vegetation. To date only Tasmania

Figure 2: Leaf and Fruit  
Photo : DWLBC

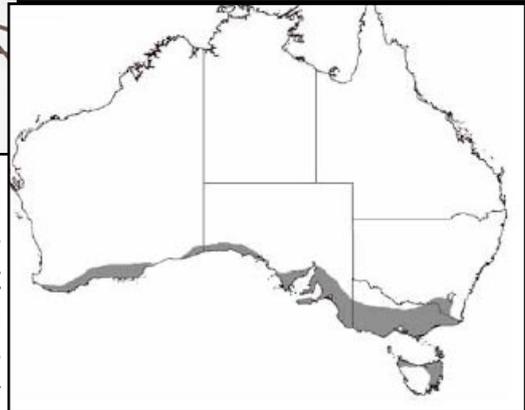
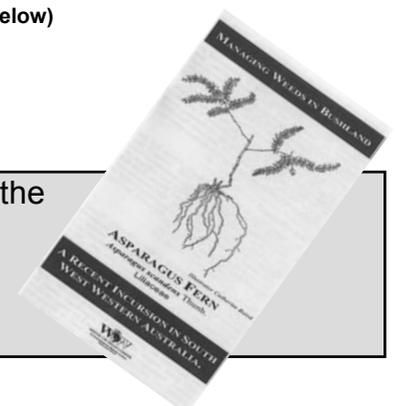


Figure 4: Potential Distribution of *A. scandens*  
(see brochure below)

has declared this weed. It remains a common garden plant particularly on older properties. Infestations in remnant bushland would undoubtedly have been the result of garden escapes but the careless dumping of garden waste on road sides and into the bush would have contributed to initial establishment of infestation sites. Early intervention will ensure that *A. scandens* does not become as prolific as bridal creeper. We do not have to look far to see an example of the destructive nature of this weed. *A.scandens* is considered the worst Asparagus weed in New Zealand.

An excellent control brochure for *A. scandens* has been produced by the **Western Australian Environmental Weeds Action Network**.  
Download a copy from :

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/pdf/A\\_scandens.pdf](http://members.iinet.net.au/~ewan/pdf/A_scandens.pdf)



## National committee grows

The National Asparagus Weeds Management Committee (NAWMC) has accepted the nomination of another community representative. Dean Overton joins the committee from Kangaroo Island, South Australia. Dean has had many years experience in controlling bridal creeper and veil on the island and was instrumental, along with his wife Bev, in developing the "spore water" rust redistribution technique. We look forward to tapping into Dean's experience. The committee is planning to conduct three teleconferences through the year in addition to one face to face meeting in Adelaide towards the end of the year.

### Workshop proceedings

The proceeding of the 2005 National Asparagus Weeds Workshop will be published in a special edition of the *Plant Protection Quarterly* in May 2006. Additional copies will be available from the bridal creeper coordinator, if you are not a subscriber to the publication.

## What maps have you got ?

Part of any good management plan is having a map of where your target weed is. At present no comprehensive maps of the national distribution, which include regional details, of bridal creeper or any of the other Asparagus weeds are available.

So the questions goes out to all government and community land managers. Do you have maps of Asparagus weed infestations in your area ?

At this point this is only an investigation into what is available. Once we have established what's out there and undertaken a feasibility study into trying to marry the myriad of formats together will a final decision be made on developing a national map. If you can help please forward any information to Dennis Gannaway, National Asparagus Weeds Management Coordinator.

## Funding Opportunities

Securing funding is always a struggle, particularly when trying to find out what is available from State, Federal and private sources. To make things a little easier a tool has been developed by the Weeds of National Significance Coordinators. The project, lead by Hillary Cherry, resulted in the creation of a detailed spreadsheet covering all aspects of available funding for 2006. This resource has been posted on the following website -

<http://www.weeds.org.au/weedfunding.htm>  
click on [Summary of National Weed Funding Opportunities 2006](#) to download the file. Any comments or additional funding information would be gratefully received. Comments can be sent Dennis Gannaway.

The current major national funding opportunity is **Envirofund Round 8**. Details relating to eligibility criteria, relevant dates and applications forms can be found at the following website.

[www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/](http://www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/)

### Correction to newsletter vol1 no3

In the last issue of the newsletter reference was made to *A. scandens* being a garden escapee in and around Cape Town. This elicited the following response from Carien Kleinjan. "I read the bridal creeper newsletter with interest. Just one comment, the statements attributed to me concerning *A. scandens* in South Africa don't really reflect the situation as I see it here. I commented in my talk that *A. scandens* appears weedy in certain situations here in South Africa, a point also made by Dave le Maitre and referred to in the Reid and Timmins paper on *A. scandens* in New Zealand. However, these are indigenous plants growing within their natural habitat and in their natural range, they are not garden escapees. The fact that they appear to have the capacity to be weedy here is of concern as it suggests that finding suitable potential biological control agents may present a problem" Apologies Carien, we stand corrected.

And finally the bridal creeper rust fungus has turned up in New Zealand..... Wasn't me !