




Bridal Creeper and other Asparagus Weeds National Priority Action Framework 2009-2011

	Reduce existing impacts	Prevention of Spread	Detect & eradicate new infestations	Skills and Coordination
Priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement control at priority sites - Monitor biodiversity response to weed control and implement further restoration activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contain bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement eradication plans for new invasions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximise inter-agency and community group cooperation in management of all Asparagus weeds across Australia.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribute existing biocontrol agents for bridal creeper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce maps of bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds infestations & their current status of management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek to include Asparagus weeds as priority species for any new or established alert lists or 'weed spotter' type programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster and maintain effective community engagement in the management of bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement improved chemical, biological and physical techniques for all Asparagus weeds. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate the withdrawal of all Asparagus weeds from the nursery and garden industry, through voluntary and statutory means. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable the wider community to recognise bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds and the threat they pose to natural assets.

Detailed information regarding the Asparagus Weeds National Priority Action Framework

Reduce existing impacts

Priority 1

Implement control at high priority sites.

Control should be targeted to reduce impact to high value natural assets and should include the use of best practice management techniques. Integrated management may also include the active restoration of sites post control (where required) as this will.

High value natural assets may include threatened ecological communities, threatened species, World heritage areas, priority coastal ecosystems and priority woodlands.

Monitor biodiversity response to weed control (including biocontrol) and implement further restoration activities where required at invaded sites.

Identifying the impacts of bridal creeper management is critical to quantifying success or otherwise of actions. Monitoring biological response to weed control will contribute to a greater understanding of future site restoration requirements. As the primary management goal is to improve or restore biodiversity, developing and implementing appropriate restoration techniques will assist in long term site recovery and resilience to further/future weed invasion.

Priority 2

Distribute existing biocontrol agents for bridal creeper throughout its national distribution.

National distribution of biocontrol agents has successfully occurred and the focus should now be on the local and regional redistribution of agents where required. This will still remain a priority for some community groups, particularly where eradication is not feasible.

Priority 3

Develop and implement improved chemical, biological and physical techniques for all Asparagus weeds.

Further research is needed to advance our knowledge of best practice control methods for all Asparagus weeds, including improved chemical, biological and physical techniques. Research into biological control agents that may attack all or any of the other invasive Asparagus weeds is needed.

Prevention of Spread

Priority 1

Contain bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds.

Supporting the containment line in NSW will include the control of outlier infestations to the north of this line, including those in the Namoi, Border Rivers/Gwydir and Northern Rivers CMAs. These actions will also support the Queensland eradication program for outlier infestations over the border in the Condamine Alliance region.

Priority 2

Produce maps of bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds infestations & their current status of management.

Mapping at the local and regional level continues to be a priority, and will assist to refine maps at the national scale. Information on management activities should also be collected to enable maps to be used as a communication tool that aids in strategic decision making and to evaluate management progress over time. Maps are to be available to a wide audience.

Detect & eradicate new infestations

Priority 1

Develop and implement eradication plans for new invasions.

Early response is the most effective means to manage new infestations of bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds. Bridal creeper priority areas for eradication include Tasmania, New South Wales (Lord Howe Island) and Queensland. Western Cape form of bridal creeper is also a priority for eradication at the two known locations in South Australia and Victoria. This will prevent new infestations from becoming established. The ability to detect new invasion should also be enhanced.

Priority 2

Seek to include Asparagus weeds as priority species for any new or established alert lists or 'weed spotter' type programs.

Ensure bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds are recognised for the risk they pose to natural assets through the inclusion on alert weed lists and as a focus for any early detection programs such as weed spotters. This will assist in early detection and enable more effective management responses such as eradication.

Priority 3

Facilitate the withdrawal of all Asparagus weeds from the nursery and garden industry, through voluntary and statutory means.

Stop the sale and distribution of all Asparagus weeds.

Skills & Coordination

Priority 1

Maximise inter-agency and community group cooperation in management of all Asparagus weeds across Australia.

Co-operation in projects utilising the skills, knowledge and resources of Government agencies and community groups will result in outcomes that achieve more than projects focusing on individual land parcels.

Priority 2

Foster and maintain effective community engagement in the management of bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds.

Through the provision of accurate information and appropriate support the capacity of the community to identify threats and participate in management is increased. Greater levels of awareness should lead to increased efforts and improved outcomes.

Priority 3

Enable the wider community to recognise bridal creeper and other Asparagus weeds and the threat they pose to natural assets.

Asparagus weeds have become garden escapes mainly through ignorance. Educating the general public to the impacts of these plants will contribute to stopping further accidental escapes.