Department of
Primary Industries and Regional Development

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Environmental weed risk assessment

Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)

Plantain (narrow-leaved plantain) is a deep-rooted, short-lived perennial herb from Europe, temperate Asia and north Africa. It has been used for various medicinal purposes for centuries and only more recently as a forage plant. It is widely naturalised in temperate regions and is a weed of lawns and disturbed areas in southern Australia and North America.

Plantain is a very minor pasture species in high rainfall south-western Australia and requires an annual rainfall greater than 500mm and a growing season longer than 6 months to persist (Moore et al. 2006).

There is no apparent role for plantain in northern WA.

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/
- "Widely naturalised in southern and eastern Australia (i.e. in eastern Queensland, southern and eastern New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria, Tasmania, many parts of South Australia and south-western Western Australia).

  ….regarded as an environmental weed in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia." Weeds of Australia website Fact sheet Index (lucidcentral.org)
- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, plantain is listed as an agricultural weed, casual alien, cultivation escape, environmental weed, garden thug, naturalised, noxious weed, weed (Randall 2017).

Western Australia:

- "…Common on disturbed areas such as roadsides and sports ovals from Perth to Albany...." (Hussey et al. 2007).
- Recorded as naturalised in the following IBRA Regions of WA: Avon wheatbelt, Swan coastal plain, Jarrah forest and Warren (Keighery and Longman 2004).
- Not listed in naturalised taxa recorded from conservation lands in Western Australia (Keighery 1991).

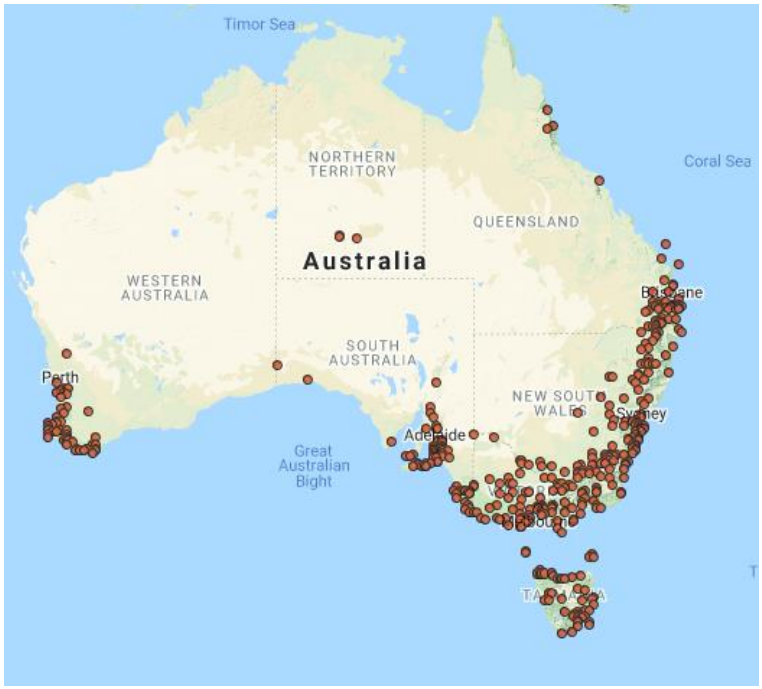

Figure 1 Distribution of plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) in Australia (Source: 'The Australasian Virtual Herbarium')

Environmental weed risk assessment

Assessed using the 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands' (Moore et al. 2022)

Region	Filter A	Filter B	Weed Risk Assessment rating
	Is the species a weed in similar environments in Australia or overseas?	Is the species likely to persist in the environment without management*?	
Kimberley	No	No	**Negligible to low**
Pilbara	No	No	**Negligible to low**
Gascoyne – Goldfields	No	No	**Negligible to low**
Agricultural area	Yes	Yes (>500mm AAR)	**TBD**

*Without management means no fertiliser, Rhizobia, irrigation, grazing management or control of competition from other species

References

Hussey BMJ, Keighery GJ, Dodd J, Lloyd SG, Cousens RD (2007) 'Western weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia'. Second Edition. The Weeds Society of Western Australia Inc.

Keighery GJ (1991) Environmental weeds of Western Australia. *Kowari*, **2:** 180-188.

Keighery G, Longman V (2004) The naturalized vascular plants of Western Australia 1: Checklist, environmental weeds and distribution in IBRA regions. *Plant Protection Quarterly*, **19(1):** 12-32.

Moore GA, Sanford P, Wiley T (2006) 'Perennial pastures for Western Australia'. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Bulletin 4690.

Moore G, Munday C, Barua P (2022) 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands', Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, *Bulletin no. 4924*, Perth.

Randall RP (2017) 'Global compendium of weeds' (No. Ed. 3).

Weeds of Australia database https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium_repens.htm Site accessed 30 November 2021

Assessment by G Moore and N Nazeri
January 2022

Important disclaimer