

Environmental weed risk assessment

Berseem clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum*)

Berseem clover (also Egyptian clover, Alexandria clover) is an annual pasture legume originating from eastern Mediterranean regions. It is widely grown in its area of origin as a high-quality forage conservation crop, and has been introduced to many other countries, such as India, Pakistan, South Africa, USA and Australia, where it is also primarily used for fodder conservation purposes. It has not been used commercially in south-western Australia.

In experimental trials in northern WA the annual legumes and herbs had good feed quality but in general, with low forage yields under irrigation, are unlikely to be economically viable (Moore et al. 2021).

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) <https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/>
- Not listed in Weeds of Australia website [Fact sheet Index \(lucidcentral.org\)](https://www.lucidcentral.org/fact-sheet-index/)
- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, berseem clover is listed as an agricultural weed, casual alien, cultivation escape, naturalised, weed (Randall 2017).

Western Australia:

- Not listed in Western weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia (Hussey et al. 2007)
- Recorded as cultivated, not naturalised in the following IBRA Regions of WA: Swan coastal plain (Keighery and Longman 2004).
- Not listed in naturalised taxa recorded from conservation lands in Western Australia (Keighery 1991).



Figure 1 Distribution of berseem clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) in Australia (Source: 'The Australasian Virtual Herbarium')

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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	No	No	Negligible to low

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

References

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- 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 G, Revell C, Schelfhout C, Ham C, Crouch S (2021) 'Mosaic agriculture: a guide to irrigated crop and forage production in northern WA', Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Bulletin no. 4915, Perth.
- 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

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