Weed map

A simple hand drawn map will help to identify priorities for control and eradication. Your map should include the:

- Location and density of weed infestations.
- Location of clean (weed free) areas.
- Natural variations (slope, waterways, flooding).
- Infrastructure (fences, driveways) and land use (paddocks).

An aerial photo/satellite image is a useful starting point.

Surveying

Regular property weed inspections help prevent establishment and spread by early detection and provide a basis for mapping:

- For a basic survey, inspect likely weed locations e.g. creeks, ponds, tracks, bores or disturbed areas.
- For a detailed survey, walk/drive across your property in straight lines, repeat at regular intervals across the property.
- On your map, mark isolated weeds as points. Sketch the boundary of bigger infestations and label with a scored density.
- Larger property owners should use the 'Guidelines for Weed Data Collection in the Northern Territory'.

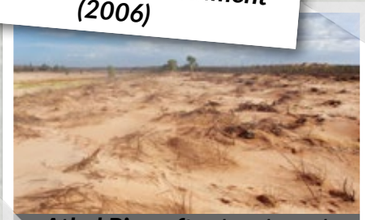
Good record keeping enables better weed management at local, regional and Territory levels

Photo points

Photo points can help document weed control efforts:

- Mark the location of each photo point with a star picket.
- Take the photo at the same height each time.
- Record the location and date of each photo.
- Take photos regularly to reflect changes in vegetation.
- Take photos before and after control to determine success.

Athel Pine before treatment (2006)



Athel Pine after treatment (2007)

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WEED PLAN

A weed planning guide for Central Australia

In the Northern Territory the spread of weeds has lead to changes in natural ecosystems. These changes have reduced the diversity and abundance of native plants and animals.

Weed establishment also threatens the sustainable use of land and water resources.

The long term protection of the Territory's natural resources is dependant on all land managers undertaking an active role in weed management. This guide provides advice on how to plan for efficient and cost effective weed control on your property.

Why plan?

Successful weed management may require a significant investment of resources over a long period of time. Planning is vital to ensure that time and money invested actually contributes towards long term goals on your property.

Plans help land managers to determine the most appropriate management actions and ensure they are implemented at the most appropriate times. Management actions can then be prioritised, taking into account potential for spread and susceptibility to weed establishment. Preventing introduction and locating weeds before they spread is always the most successful and cheapest way of managing weeds. Planning will help you keep weeds out of clean areas and identify and protect areas of high importance.

Regular monitoring and plan review are key elements of any weed management program. Reinfestation or establishment may only be one growing season away if vigilance is not maintained.

A good property weed plan will help to assess, prioritise the control of and monitor weeds impacting your property. This guide leads you through a number of steps that will assist you to develop your own plan.

STEP 1

Assess your situation

What are your:

- Priority weed species?
- Priority control areas?
- High risk areas for weed spread?
- Significant weed seed sources?
- Clean and valuable areas?
- Options for co-ordinating weed control with neighbours?

Refer to statutory weed management plans and management guides for further information.

- *Prioritise control of plants which increase risk of spread*

Mexican poppy spreading along track

- *Establish a property wash down point (regularly monitor and control weeds)*
- *Develop hygiene protocols*

Vehicles spreading weed seeds

- *Keep weed free areas clean*
- *Control isolated infestations before tackling big ones*
- *Control plants upstream first*

Parkinsonia spreading from dam to the river

Mexican poppy spreading down the river

- *Ensure sand used for construction is weed free*
- *Manage new outbreaks early*
- *Control plants upstream first*

STEP 2

Develop your plan

- Draw a property map
- Identify isolated plants and outbreaks for eradication
- Identify major infestations for containment
- Develop a weed control calendar taking into account weed growth and reproductive cycles
- Design a weed spread prevention program
- Cost all planned control works, including follow up

- *All deliberate plantings of declared weeds, e.g. at homesteads must be eradicated*

Historical athel pine planting

STEP 3

Implement your plan

Undertake integrated weed control activities

- Physical
- Chemical
- Grazing
- Fire
- Biocontrol

Complement with good land management techniques to avoid weed germination and spread.

STEP 4

Monitor and review

- Regularly conduct surveys to detect new and re-establishing weeds
- Record/photograph control results (success and failure)
- Document costs and resources
- Review your plan