Purpose and scope

This guideline has been prepared under section 15 of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 (Qld) to support successful management of African boxthorn, a Class 2 declared pest. It sets out an objective, and statutory and non-statutory actions which are consistent with the eight principles of pest management listed in section 9 of the Act.

Operational objective

To prevent the spread of African boxthorn into uninfested areas.

Operational actions

1. Integration
   
   • Integrate the management of African boxthorn with broader land management programs (designed to improve pasture vigour, increase ground cover, and retain tree cover) on steep scrub soils in areas at risk of invasion, thereby preventing or reducing seedling establishment.

2. Public awareness
   
   • Raise public awareness of the impact of African boxthorn, so that landowners are willing to help prevent its spread.
   • Target awareness campaigns at landowners on properties with steep scrub soils in areas at risk of invasion, so they are able to recognise African boxthorn and take swift action to eradicate small infestations.

3. Commitment
   
   • Enforce compliance when landowners do not take reasonable steps to control African boxthorn, thereby preventing or reducing bird-dispersal of berries into uninfested areas.
   • Consider providing incentives to landowners for participating in coordinated African boxthorn control programs (e.g. lending them community-owned equipment such as high-pressure spray equipment).

4. Consultation and partnership
   
   • Build working partnerships between key stakeholders to generate a holistic approach to the management of African boxthorn and a sense of community ownership of the problem.

5. Planning
   
   • Map the extremities of African boxthorn infestations
   • Monitor areas potentially at risk of new African boxthorn infestations
   • Ensure that African boxthorn management plans are consistent with plans in neighbouring areas.
   • Secure adequate resources (i.e. time, funds and personnel) to carry out the actions in this guideline.
Guideline

6. Prevention

• Prevent the spread of African boxthorn into uninfested properties by enforcing restrictions on the movement of products and machinery contaminated with seed (s. 46).

7. Best practice

• Collate and distribute best practice information to landowners.
• Put in place measures to prevent any degradation of land, water, and desirable vegetation by control methods.

8. Improvement

• Keep up-to-date with research on the management of African boxthorn.

Background

African boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum) is a thorny shrub introduced from South Africa. It occurs mainly in subcoastal south-east Queensland and is particularly troublesome on some of the steep scrub soils within the Maranoa and Darling Downs districts. It has the potential to expand its range considerably.

Under certain land management regimes, it can form impenetrable thickets in pastures and along roadsides, reducing pasture productivity, impeding stock movement and providing shelter for rabbits. Improved pasture management in addition to direct action on boxthorn will help make pastures more resilient to invasion. Existing infestations need to be prevented from spreading to protect Queensland’s economy and environment, and the livelihoods of landholders in areas at risk of invasion.

Responsibility

Landowners: destruction of infestations.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DEEDI: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

Reference

African boxthorn fact sheet available at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

Map


The maps are updated as new information becomes available, and the latest maps must be accessed from the website.

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