



ACT Parks and Conservation Service - Invasive Plants

PARKCARE ANNUAL PLANNING INFORMATION
SESSION

What challenges do we face?

1

Established weeds are the most challenging in many aspects.

- Long history in the landscape
- Seedbank established
- Sense of complacency
- Risk of being overlooked

2

Time, Money, Resources, Threat

- Intensive
- Ongoing
- Expensive
- Demoralising

3

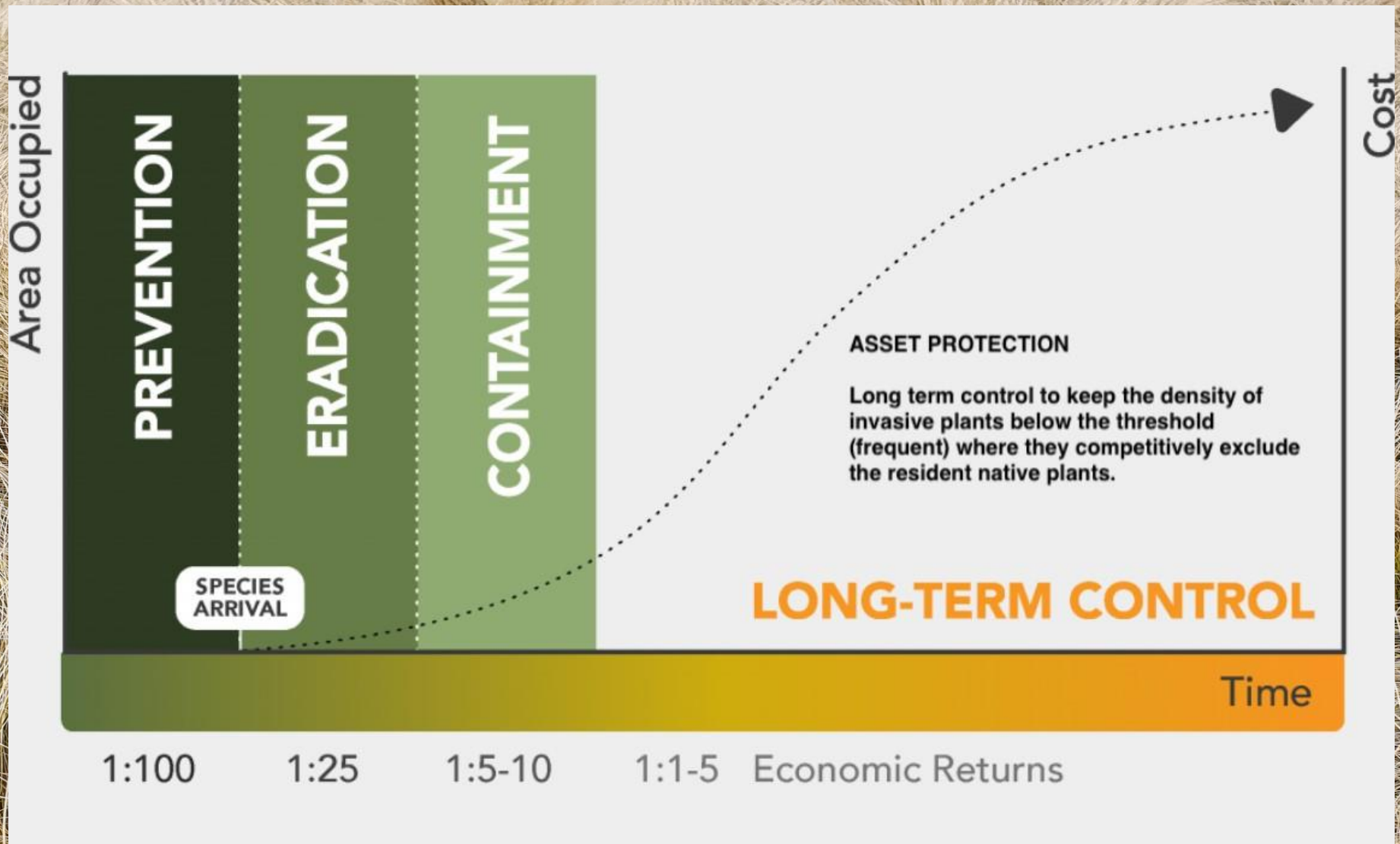
Many are transformers capable of invading intact, healthy ecosystems

- Serrated tussock is an example of a plant capable of invading and transforming intact grassland/woodland habitats.

4

Large established populations across significant geographical areas.

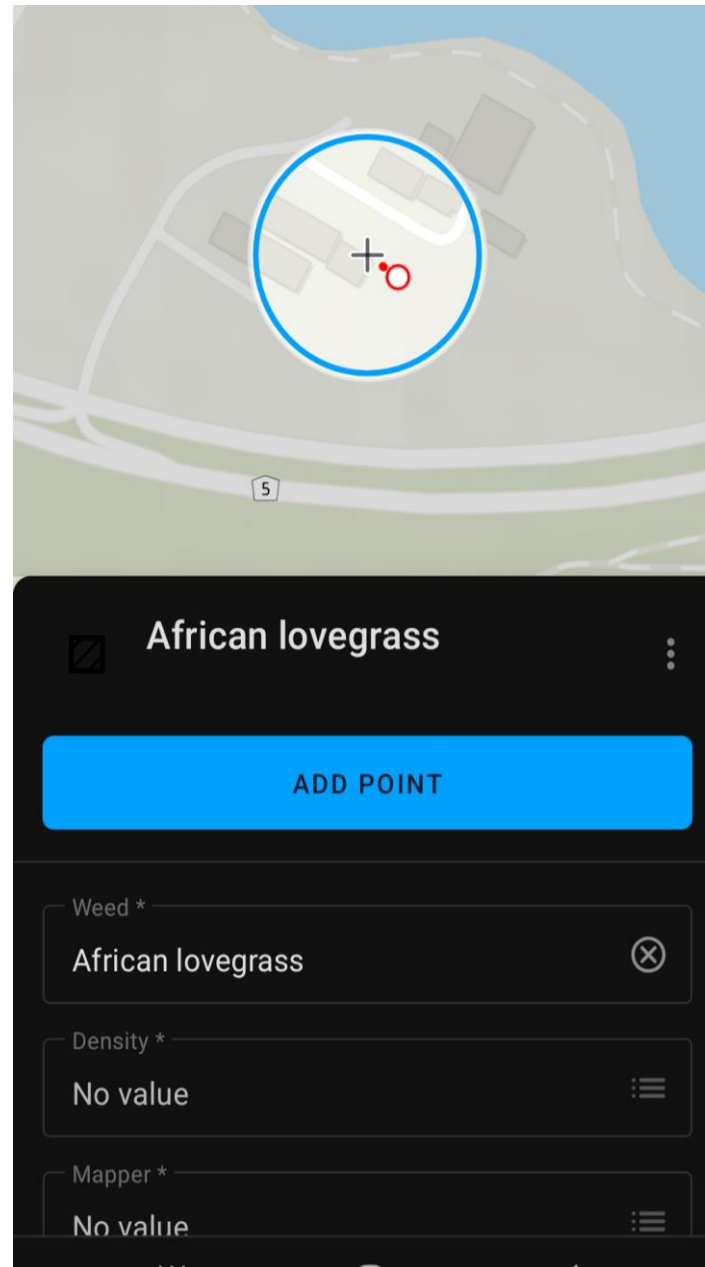
- Makes further spread more likely, exacerbating the issue



When it comes to invasive species, prevention is much easier and cheaper than cure. (Image and text - Invasives.org.au)

Mapping – A critical tool in invasive species management

- ▶ Mapping is an important tool for many reasons –
- ▶ Species spread and density.
- ▶ Management activity logging.
- ▶ Herbicide use in the ACT.
- ▶ Ongoing funding.



Fieldmaps training for Park Care users

- ▶ Regular training is available for any Park Care volunteer who wishes to learn how to use Fieldmaps and how we use our mapping data.
- ▶ Check with the Park Care team or on the Park Care Hub.
- ▶ Upcoming dates –
September 9, 2025
October 14, 2025



Risk Assessments

- ▶ Help with prioritising work.
- ▶ Guidance on species risk.
- ▶ Outlines impacts
- ▶ Available publicly through ACT Government website:
- ▶ <https://www.act.gov.au/open/invasive-plants-operations-plan>

List of naturalised and doubtfully naturalised alien plant species in the ACT - an advisory list												
Authors/assessors:	Dr Paul Downey - Environmental Management Consulting, & Citizen Science											
Version	14/11/2023 Version 2-1-4											
Number of alien plant species assessed	683											
N	Species Name	Common Name	Family Name	Terrestrial Life Form	Aquatic Life Form	Coding aquatic species	1 Impact					
							1a Environmental Impact	1b Economic Impact	1c Social Impact	Overall Impact Score		
criteria	score	criteria	score	criteria	score	criteria	score	criteria	score	criteria	score	
0	Data deficient	7.2	Data deficient	7.2	Data deficient	7.2	7.2	M				
1	Data deficient	7.2	Data deficient	7.2	Data deficient	7.2	7.2	Aq				
0	Massive impact	24	Moderate impact	13.2	Data deficient	7.2	24	Aq				
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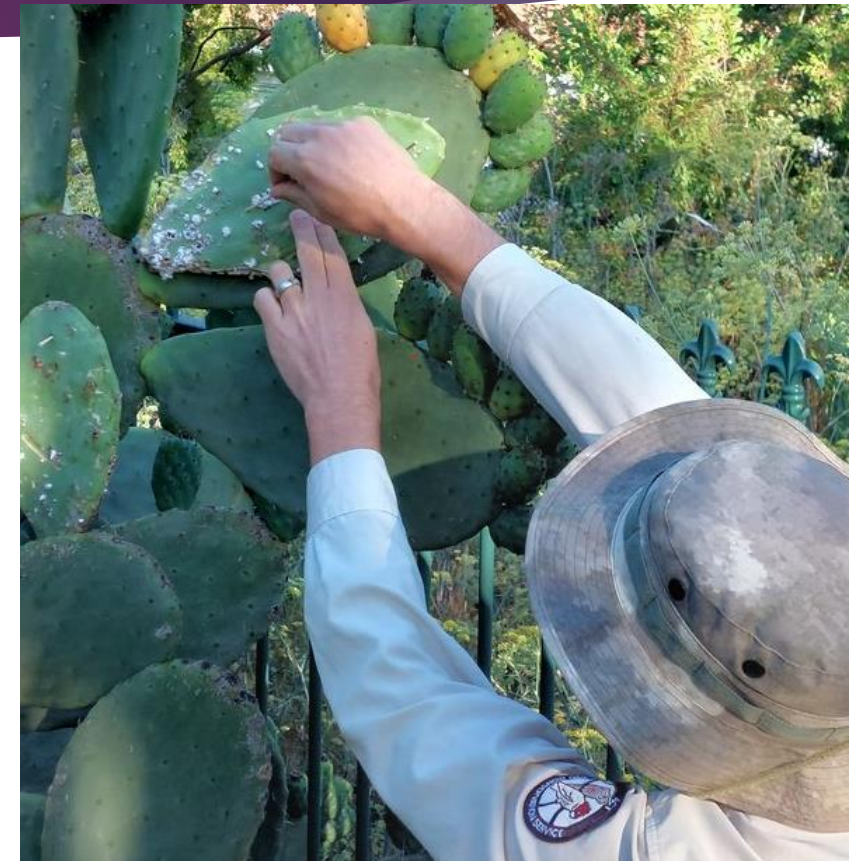
Seasonal treatment

► This calendar can be used to plan and prioritise work. Often seasonal considerations play a big part in determining what species to target and when to engage contractors. Weather can also change these timeframes in any given year.

[illegible]

Integrated control

- ▶ Best practice control involves a number of techniques (ie. integrated control):
 - biocontrol – **African boxthorn**(CSIRO) Rust, **Opuntia ssp.** Cochineal weevil and cactoblastis moth, **broom** gall mite, **blackberry** rust
 - Proposal for funding an ACT Parks Biocontrol facility to rear and acclimatise more biological agents for ACT conditions.
 - herbicide application - spot spraying, cut-stump, basal bark, boom spraying, stem-scape, granular, splatter-gun, wick-wiper, and aerial spraying - drone, helicopter, or fixed wing
 - manual removal is effective particularly during wetter periods for smaller plants
 - revegetation and mulching are required in degraded areas after control work
 - flame weeding and slashing are effective against annual weeds on cacti
 - carefully timed grazing and mowing can be used to improve grassland condition and slow or reduce densities of certain weeds.
 - prescribed burning and soil fertility management are most effective when combined with selective herbicide use



Biosecurity Act 2023 and Biosecurity Declaration 2025

- ▶ The new ACT Biosecurity Act is now in place. It replaces the old Acts Animal Diseases Act 2005, Plant Diseases Act 2002, Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005.
- ▶ More powers to educate, manage and enforce.
- ▶ The Biosecurity Act 2023: introduces a new legal obligation called the general biosecurity duty. It identifies that biosecurity is a shared responsibility and highlights the need for government, industry and the community to work together to manage biosecurity risks. Everyone in the ACT must report biosecurity issues or concerns when they are identified.



Reporting and useful apps



Or

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actbiosecurity@act.gov.au

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation>

