



Environmental weed risk assessment

Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*)

Asparagus (garden asparagus) is an herbaceous, perennial plant, and the young shoots are used as a spring vegetable. Native to Europe, it originally grew in coastal sand dunes and has some salt tolerance.

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) <https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/>
- “This species is occasionally naturalised in southern and eastern Australia (i.e. in south-eastern Queensland, eastern New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania, south-eastern South Australia and south-western Western Australia). Also naturalised in many other parts of the world (i.e. in northern Europe, New Zealand, western USA and South America).”

“.....has escaped cultivation and is an emerging weed of disturbed sites, waste areas, wetlands and watercourses (i.e. riparian areas). It is regarded as an environmental weed in Victoria and a minor or potential environmental weed in Western Australia, New South Wales, the ACT, Tasmania and South Australia.”

Weeds of Australia website [Fact sheet Index \(lucidcentral.org\)](http://www.lucidcentral.org/fact-sheet-index/)

- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, asparagus is listed as an agricultural weed, casual alien, cultivation escape, environmental weed, garden thug, naturalised, weed (Randall 2017).
- Not listed in NSW Weedwise <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

Western Australia:

- “... is grown as a vegetable, and has spread into disturbed creek banks and wastelands from Perth to Williams” (Hussey et al. 2007).
- Recorded as naturalised in the following IBRA Regions of WA: Avon Wheatbelt, Swan coastal plain, Jarrah Forrest (Keighery and Longman 2004).
- Listed as naturalised in local Government reserves in Western Australia (Keighery 1991).

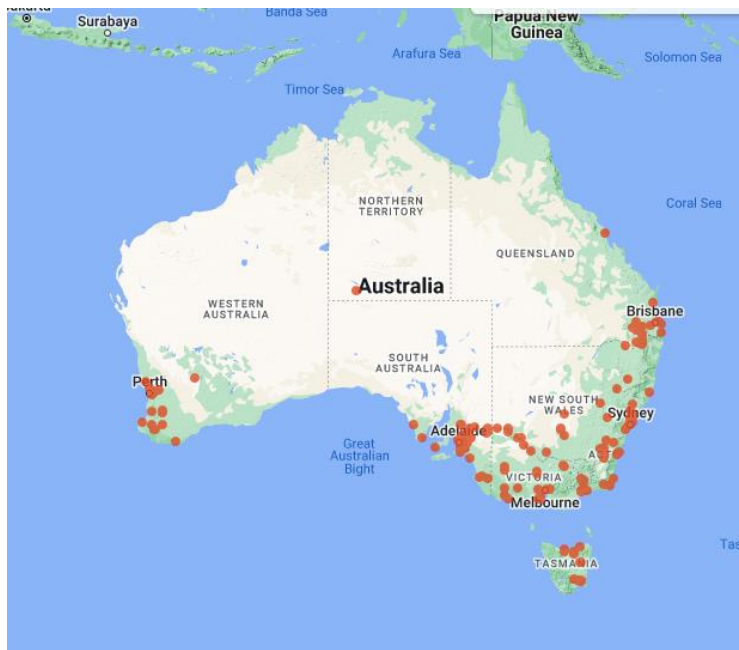


Figure 1 Distribution of asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) in Australia (Source: 'The Australasian Virtual Herbarium')

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 (niche)	TBA

*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 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

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