



Environmental weed risk assessment

Passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*)

Passiflora edulis, commonly known as passionfruit, is a perennial vine species of passionflower native to southern Brazil through Paraguay and northern Argentina. It is cultivated commercially in Hawaii, Australia, South Africa, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia for the sweet, seedy fruit.

In Western Australia (WA) passionfruit has been grown commercially in the south-west from Albany to Perth since at least the 1920s and is also a common garden plant.

There are related weedy species; Stinking passionflower (*Passiflora foetida*) is regarded as an environmental weed in Queensland, the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia (Kimberley).

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) <https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/>
- “Widely naturalised in eastern and southern Australia (i.e., in eastern Queensland, the coastal districts of eastern New South Wales, in southern Victoria, in south-eastern South Australia and in the coastal districts of south-western Western Australia).

Passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*) is regarded as an environmental weed in New South Wales and Queensland. This species is widely cultivated in Australia for its edible fruit. It is a weed of roadsides, fence lines, waste areas, disturbed sites, native bushland, riparian vegetation, open woodlands, forest margins and coastal environs in the tropical, sub-tropical and warmer temperate regions of Australia. The yellow-fruited form (i.e. *Passiflora edulis* forma *flavicarpa*) is more common among naturalised populations, and seems to be more invasive” Weeds of Australia website [Fact sheet Index \(lucidcentral.org\)](#)

- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, passionfruit is listed as an agricultural weed, cultivation escape, environmental weed, garden thug, naturalised, noxious weed, weed (Randall 2017).

Western Australia:

- “...Recorded from WA but doubtfully naturalised, have been collected from Nannup” (Hussey et al. 2007)
- Recorded as a garden escape, sparingly naturalized in Jarrah Forest (Keighery and Longman 2004).
- Not listed in Environmental weeds of Western Australia (Keighery 1991).



Figure 1 Distribution of passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*) 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

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

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