

# Aleppo Pine

## REDUCING ITS IMPACT IN THE NORTHERN AND YORKE NRM REGION

### Description of this weed

Aleppo pine is an evergreen tree up to 20 metres in height from the Mediterranean. It is common throughout South Australia as it has widely been planted as windbreaks.

The Aleppo pine has an extensive root system with the main taproot extending many metres into the ground. The single trunk divides into several main branches to form an open, round-topped crown. The bark is scaly, red-brown on the inside and dark grey on the outside.

The leaves are bright green needles, 6 to 10cm long, often curved or twisted and held together in pairs by a basal sheath about 1cm long. Buds are covered with scales with fringed edges.

The seed cones are 5 to 11cm long and 2.5 to 4cm wide and reddish-brown in colour. The seeds are about 6mm long with a wing 25mm long and can remain in the cone for several years before being shed. The cones open and release seed in response to disturbance, for example fire and being felled.

### Why is it a weed and what is the impact?

Aleppo pine is scattered throughout the northern agricultural districts and the Yorke Peninsula and is more common in higher rainfall areas. Aleppo pine is adapted to dry, rocky limestone soils, but will grow in other well-drained soils. It is drought tolerant and can persist in low rainfall areas but will thrive in higher rainfall areas.

Aleppo pine reproduces by seed only and up to 90% of the seeds can germinate although seedling survival is low. The wing on the seed of Aleppo pine enables it to be dispersed by the wind and seeds can travel up to 40m from the parent plant.

It is an aggressive invader of cleared roadsides and native vegetation. It competes with established vegetation and will eventually dominate the area if the infestation is left unchecked.

Some pine infestations can be so thick that shading and oil from the pine needles inhibits the growth of other plants.



### What can you do? – Some methods of control

#### Mechanical

Small seedlings can be hand pulled, but ongoing follow up is required due to the large numbers of seeds produced by the parent plants. It is also possible to cut off the plants at the base, ensuring there are no growth nodes or shoots below the cut.

#### Chemical

Please contact your local NRM Authorised Officer for advice on chemical control.

### Pest plants – whose responsibility?

Pest plants don't recognise property boundaries. By working collaboratively, Natural Resources Northern and Yorke and landholders have the best chance of controlling priority pest plants.

#### On private land:

Landholders have a legal responsibility, under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, to control declared plants on their land.

#### On roadside reserves:

Roadsides are part of public road reserves, which are owned by the Crown. Under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, regional NRM boards are responsible for the control of declared pest plants on roadside reserves.



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Aleppo pine foliage. Image credit: J Donnelly

Landholders have the opportunity to control declared plants on road reserves adjoining their property. Where control work is undertaken by the local board, an account may be issued to landholders.

Before undertaking control work on road reserves, landholders should contact the Natural Resource Centre to determine if any approvals are required. Care should also be taken to avoid any off-target damage to native vegetation.

**Natural Resources Northern and Yorke can provide the following support to landholders:**

- A free weed identification service
- Advice about the most appropriate management method for pest plants on their property.

## For more information

**Natural Resources Centre Northern and Yorke**

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**E** DEWNR.NRNY@sa.gov.au

**W** [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke)

**Hours** Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

**Control Techniques**

Biosecurity SA Weed Control Handbook

[www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa)

South Australian Weed Control App

*available from your App store (free)*

Weed Management Guides for WoNS weeds

[www.weeds.org.au/WoNS](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS)



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