

Weed (Scientific name)	Asparagus virgatus		
Region	Greater Sydney		
Management Area	Coastal areas		
Landuse	1. CONSERVATION AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS		
Assumptions	syn. Protoasparagus virgatus		
Invasiveness	Score	Total	
Q1. What is the ability of the weed to establish amongst existing plants?		1.0	Seedlings establish after moderate disturbance
Q2. What is the weed's tolerance to average weed management practices in the land use?		3.0	95% + weeds survive common management
Q3. What is the reproductive ability of the weed in the land use?		3.0	
(a) Time to seeding	?		Do not know
(b) Annual seed production	2.0		High
(c) Vegetative reproduction	2.0		Frequent
Q4. How likely is long-distance dispersal (>100m) by natural means?		2.0	
(a) Flying animals	2.0		Common
(b) Other wild animals	2.0		Common
(c) Water	1.0		Occasional
(d) Wind	0.0		Unlikely
Q5. How likely is long-distance dispersal (>100 m) by human means?		1.0	
(a) Deliberate spread by people	1.0		Occasional
(b) Accidentally by people and vehicles	0.0		Unlikely
(c) Contaminated produce	1.0		Occasional
(d) Domestic/farm animals	0.0		Unlikely
Total		6.7	

Source and comments

Q1	It is mainly found in riparian areas and near forest margins, or in disturbed sites and waste areas near habitation. (QLD Biosecurity, 2012)
Q2	little routine management
Q3	It spreads via creeping underground stems to form large and dense patches that replace native vegetation. (QLD Biosecurity, 2012). Fruits most of year, a berry orange-red with one seed. Self-sows freely (Daves Garden, 2012).
Q4	
Q5	Ornamental

Impacts	Score	Total	
Q1. Does the weed reduce the establishment of desired plants?		3.0	> 50% reduction
Q2. Does the weed reduce the yield or amount of desired vegetation?		4.0	> 50% reduction
Q3. Does the weed reduce the quality of products, diversity or services available from the land use?		3.0	High
Q4. What is the weed's potential to restrict the physical movement of people, animals, vehicles, machinery and/or water?		1.0	Low
Q5. What is the weed's potential to negatively affect the health of animals and/or people?		?	Do not know
Q6. Does the weed have major positive or negative effects on environmental health?		3.0	
(a) food/shelter	1.0		Major negative effect
(b) fire regime	?		Do not know
(c) altered nutrient levels	?		Do not know
(d) soil salinity	?		Do not know
(e) soil stability	?		Do not know
(f) soil water table	?		Do not know
Total		8.2	
Potential Distribution			
Q1. Within the geographic area being considered, what is the percentage area of land use that is suitable for the weed?		4.0	20-40% of land use
Comparative weed risk score		218	
Weed risk category		Very high	

It spreads via creeping underground stems to form large and dense patches that replace native vegetation. (QLD Biosecurity, 2012)

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q5

Q6

Obsevation by weed Officers of Hunter region and Central Coast Weeds Officer.

Its potential distribution in Australia is thought to be restricted to the coastal and sub-coastal districts of New South Wales and Queensland, from Townsville in the north to Sydney in the south. Frost and drought tolerant

Q1

Control Costs		Score	Total	
Q1. How detectable is the weed?			2	
(a) Distinguishing features	1		sometimes distinct	Q1
(b) Period of year shoot growth visible	0		> 8 months	
(c) Height at maturity	1		0.5 - 2 m	
(d) Pre-reproductive height in relation to other vegetation	2		below canopy	
Q2. What is the general accessibility of known infestations at the optimum time of treatment?			1	
			medium	Q2
Q3. How expensive is management of the weed in the first year of targeted control?			3	
(a) Chemical costs/ha	?		do not know	Q3
(b) Labour costs/ha	?		do not know	
(c) Equipment costs	?		do not know	
Q4. What is the likely level of participation from landholders/volunteers within the land use at risk?			1.0	
			medium	Q4
Total			5.8	
Persistence		Score	Total	
Q1. How effective are targeted management treatments applied to infestations of the weed?			2	
			medium	Q1
Q2. What is the minimum time period for reproduction of sexual or vegetative propagules?			1	
			1-2 years	Q2
Q3. What is the maximum longevity of sexual or vegetative propagules?			1	
			2-5 years	Q3
Q4. How likely are new propagules to continue to arrive at control sites, or to start new infestations?			1.0	
(a) Long-distance (>100m) dispersal by natural means	1		occasional	Q4
(b) Long-distance (>100m) dispersal by human means	0		rare	
Total			4.5	
Current distribution				
Q1. What percentage area of the land use in the geographical area is currently infested by the weed?			0.1	
			<1% of land use	Q1
Q2. What is the number of infestations, and weed distribution within the geographic area being considered?			0.0	
			restricted	Q2
Total			0.1	
Comparative feasibility of coordinated control score			2	
Feasibility of coordinated control category			Very High	

Erect with spirally arranged branches, to 80cm high. Flowers are greenish-white and solitary in the axils. Berries are egg-shaped and orange at maturity. Spring flowering. (Richardson et al 2011)

assumed similar to other species in the genus

assumed from vegetative reproduction at least

Comparative Seed and Dispersal Ecology of Three Exotic Subtropical Asparagus Species Gabrielle E. Vivian-Smith and Carl R. Gosper

Bird spread weeds often exceed 100 metres in spread from site.

Rarely naturalised in the Sydney region (Botanic Gardens Trust, 2012)

Infestations recorded in Central Coast Council and Northern Beaches (Pittwater)

<p style="text-align: center;">Management priority category</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Calculation of overall uncertainty score</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Response</p>	<p>Eradication</p> <p>15%</p> <p>More Information Required</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Positive Impacts</p>	
<p>References/Other comments</p>	
<p>Family: Asparagaceae Common names: asparagus fern, broom fern Origin: southern Africa References Botanic Gardens Trust (2012). PlantNET - The Plant Information Network System of Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney, Australia. Online at http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au (accessed 19 November 2012). Dave's Garden (2012). Plant guide Asparagus virgatus. Online at http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/137300/ (accessed 19 November 2012). QLD Biosecurity (2012). Asparagus virgatus factsheet. Online at http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Asparagus_virgatus.htm (accessed 19 November 2012). Richardson, FJ, Richardson, RG, Shepherd, RCH (2011). Weeds of the South-East. RG and FJ Richardson, Victoria, Australia. Assessment modified to the Hunter LLS regional scale in November 2016 by Sophie Powrie (on behalf of HLLS) using data supplied by the HTWG (Doug Campbell, Ruth Armstrong, Kim Hignell, Terry Inkson, Jordan Skinner, Terry Bignell, Call Cotter).</p>	