

# Artichoke Thistle - Statutory Weed Management Plan

## *Cynara cardunculus* L.

### Interpretation:

In this Weed Management (amendments approved 21 June 2011):

- "Act" means the *Weed Management Act 1999*.
- "Approved quarantine place" means a place approved by the Secretary under section 70 of the *Plant Quarantine Act 1997* for the purpose of examining any prescribed matter imported into or to be exported out of the State.
- "Court fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the Act. Court fines may be imposed if a person is convicted of any offence against the Act.
- "DPIPWE" means the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.
- "Infringement fine" means a prescribed penalty for breaches against the Act. Infringement fines are imposed by way of an infringement notice that may be issued by a Weed Inspector.
- "Inspector" means a Weed Inspector appointed under section 34 of the Act.
- "Penalty unit" means the basic unit of the fine for which persons who fail to comply with any prohibition or requirement under the Act may be liable. See [values of penalty units](#) under the *Penalty Units and Other Penalties Act 1987* for more details.
- "Quarantine Tasmania" means that branch of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment that, in cooperation with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, maintains both overseas and interstate quarantine barriers for this State.
- "[Regional Weed Management Officer](#)" means a person employed in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment under that specific title.
- "Regulations" means the *Weed Management Regulations 2007*.
- "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- "Zone A" includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which eradication of a declared weed is the principal management objective. These municipalities are either free of the declared weed, host only small, isolated infestations, or host larger infestations which are deemed eradicable because a strategic management plan exists and the resources required to implement it have been or are likely to be secured. See [Management of artichoke thistle by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.
- "Zone B" includes those Tasmanian municipalities for which containment of the declared weed is the principal management

objective. Such municipalities host large, widespread infestations of the declared weed that are not deemed eradicable because the feasibility of effective management is low at this time. These municipalities lack a strategic management plan for the weed and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication have not been secured. See [Management of artichoke thistle by municipality](#) (Section 12) for details.

- "Artichoke thistle" means *Cynara cardunculus* L. and includes whole plants and plant parts, live or dead.

### **1. Purpose of this management plan:**

The purpose of this Weed Management Plan for artichoke thistle is to:

- Provide direction upon the implementation of the Act with respect to artichoke thistle.
- Specify measures to prevent the establishment and spread of artichoke thistle in Tasmania.

### **2. Area covered by this management plan:**

The State of Tasmania is covered by this management plan.

### **3. Description and distribution of the weed:**

Artichoke thistle is a perennial herb that infests pastures in a number of Australian mainland locations.

Artichoke thistle has been recorded at McRobies Gully tip in Hobart and a population of the weed occurs at the former Bridgewater Railway Station. It is also recorded as an occasional contaminant of imported agricultural products and is documented as having been sold here as an ornamental plant in the mid-19th century. Occasional occurrences of the plant are reported from the north-west but none of these have been naturalised. Refer to [Management of artichoke thistle by municipality](#) (Section 12) for information on the distribution of artichoke thistle in Tasmania by municipality.

See the DPIPW [Artichoke Thistle Information Page](#) for more information on this weed.

### **4. Importation of declared weed:**

#### **(1) A person must not import or allow to be imported into Tasmania any artichoke thistle.**

*It is an offence against section 57(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted in court of that offence may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons travelling to Tasmania, in particular from areas infested with artichoke thistle, should conduct thorough searches for the presence of the plant and apply appropriate hygiene measures, such as vehicle, baggage, footwear and clothing cleaning. In particular, any soil or plant material picked up from infested areas should be removed prior to entering Tasmania. Questions or concerns about hygiene issues should be directed to Quarantine Tasmania personnel before or directly upon disembarkation in Tasmania.
- Persons importing globe artichoke (*C. scolymus*) material should verify that it is not artichoke thistle.
- Persons wishing to import dried or fresh ornamental plant material should verify that no artichoke thistle is included.
- Persons importing other items to Tasmania (e.g. ornamental or herbal plant seed, machinery) which may contain artichoke thistle should have these checked for the presence of the plant. This can be arranged through Quarantine Tasmania.

**(2) Feed grain may be imported according to specifications in the Plant Quarantine Manual (Tasmania), Import Requirement 30 – Declared Weeds, Pests and Diseases in Feed Grain. This document establishes requirements for importing feed grain in order to minimise the risk of declared weed seed entry and establishment. Import Requirement 30 should be consulted by all existing and prospective feed grain importers.**

**(3) A person must not import any livestock that may be carrying artichoke thistle otherwise than in accordance with any measures prescribed under the Regulations.**

*It is an offence against section 57(3) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing this offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

The prescribed measures for importing stock under regulation 5 of the Regulations are as follows:

- a) the length of hairs in the coat is not to exceed 25 mm;

b) seeds are not to adhere to the coat or anywhere else on the livestock;  
c) a permit for importation is obtained from the Secretary, DPIPW;E;  
d) importation is direct to an approved facility for slaughter.  
To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons importing livestock to Tasmania should liaise with suppliers on the subject of possible artichoke thistle contamination of stock.
- Persons importing livestock should ensure their animals are confined to holding pens, prior to release to paddocks, until coat inspections and complete bowel evacuation occurs. Pens should be checked for the emergence of artichoke thistle.
- Anyone importing stock to Tasmania should make him/herself familiar with regulation 5 of the Regulations as applies to declared weeds.

**Note: The importation of this species into Tasmania is also restricted under the Plant Quarantine Act 1997. Quarantine Tasmania should be contacted for information on the relevance and application of the Plant Quarantine Act 1997 to activities concerning plant species.**

## **5. Procedures for notification of the occurrence of the weed:**

Inspectors shall notify a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) of any artichoke thistle occurrences in municipalities or parts of municipalities where the weed is not yet recorded. Refer to Table 1 in [Management of artichoke thistle by municipality](#) (Section 12) for distribution of artichoke thistle in Tasmania by municipality.

## **6. Sale, purchase, propagation, use, &c., of declared weed:**

### **(1) A person must not:**

**(a) sell artichoke thistle or any material or thing containing or carrying artichoke thistle; or**

**(b) purchase or offer to purchase artichoke thistle or any material or thing containing or carrying artichoke thistle; or**

**(c) grow, propagate or scatter artichoke thistle; or**

**(d) store artichoke thistle or any material or thing containing or carrying artichoke thistle; or**

**(e) hire or offer for hire any material or thing containing or carrying artichoke thistle; or**

**(f) use artichoke thistle or any material or thing containing or carrying artichoke thistle; or**

**(g) deal with artichoke thistle or any material or thing containing or carrying artichoke thistle in any manner that is likely to result in the spread of the declared weed.**

*It is an offence against section 5(1) of the Act to fail to comply with this prohibition. A person found committing that offence may incur an infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this prohibition under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, hiring, using, or otherwise dealing with agricultural produce or agricultural, earthmoving or roading machinery or culinary, medicinal or ornamental plant products should verify that these items do not harbour live artichoke thistle contaminants by using appropriate inspection and cleaning procedures. Any plant identification queries may be referred to a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).
- Persons giving away, bartering or selling, purchasing, growing, propagating or scattering, storing, using, or otherwise dealing with globe artichoke, *C. scolymus*, material should verify that this does not include artichoke thistle. Plant identification queries can be referred to a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).

**(2) Section 56(1) of the Act does not apply in respect of feed grain for animals that is:**

**(a) carrying a declared weed; and**

**(b) imported into Tasmania in accordance with any measures prescribed for the purpose of section 57(2) of the Act and as detailed in part 4(2) of this Management Plan.**

**(3) It is a defence in proceedings for an offence under section 56(1) of the Act if the defendant establishes that he or she took all reasonable actions to prevent the commission of the offence.**

## **7. Measures to reduce the number of artichoke thistle plants, eradicate artichoke thistle from an area or restrict artichoke thistle to a particular area:**

**An Inspector may, by serving a notice on the owner of any place, require that owner to implement any of the measures described in this part of the Weed Management Plan or any other measures consistent with it.**

*It is an offence against section 13(3) of the Act to fail to comply with a requirement notice issued by an Inspector. A person found committing that offence may be liable to an infringement fine of 8 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine not exceeding 5 penalty units for each day during which the offence continues.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- Persons discovering any plant resembling artichoke thistle should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) without delay.
- Persons responsible for managing a site that has had imported agricultural produce (e.g. imported seed) spread over it should check that site for the emergence of artichoke thistle.
- Persons responsible for managing a site to which imported stock have been released should check that site for the emergence of artichoke thistle.
- Persons responsible for managing a site upon which imported agricultural, earthmoving or roading machinery has been used should check that site for the emergence of artichoke thistle.
- Persons wishing to dispose of artichoke thistle or any thing contaminated with artichoke thistle should notify a Weed Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) first, in order to receive direction and advice upon how best to do this.

## **8. Storage in a specified area of any thing contaminated with the declared weed:**

**Any thing found to be contaminated with artichoke thistle may be removed to storage at an appropriate approved quarantine place. A [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) will determine whether removal to storage at any of these facilities or treatment/destruction of material *in situ* is most appropriate.**

*Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence against section 51(1) of the Act. A person found committing that offence may incur an*

*infringement fine of 4 penalty units. A person convicted of that offence in court may be liable to a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units.*

*The Secretary may exempt a person from this requirement under section 60 of the Act.*

To avoid committing this offence, actions including but not limited to the following should be undertaken:

- A person who discovers or suspects he/she possesses any thing contaminated with artichoke thistle should contact an Inspector or a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) without delay. The contaminated thing should not be moved, treated, disturbed or disposed of prior to making this contact. If artichoke thistle is confirmed, the person will be directed and advised in the proper management, including disposal, of the contaminated thing.

### **9. Any other measures the Minister considers appropriate to control the weed:**

There are no other measures appropriate for the management of artichoke thistle in Tasmania at this time.

### **10. Exemptions:**

Persons wishing to gain exemption from any of provisions of the *Act* that relate to artichoke thistle should contact a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#) to discuss the reasons for seeking the exemption and obtain an exemption application form.

Persons granted an exemption should ensure they understand fully, any conditions specified in the exemption. Queries can be directed to a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#).

### **11. Review of this Weed Management Plan:**

A review of this Weed Management Plan may be undertaken at least once every five years if it is necessary and desirable to do so. The review will incorporate consultation with stakeholders deemed appropriate by the Secretary, DPIPWE.

### **12. Management of artichoke thistle by municipality:**

Each Tasmanian municipality is classified into one of two management zones (Zones A or B) for the purposes of implementing this Weed Management Plan for artichoke thistle.

**Zone A Municipalities - eradication:** Eradication is the most appropriate management objective for Zone A municipalities which have little or no artichoke thistle, or when a credible plan for eradicating existing infestations is being developed and implemented. The ultimate management outcome for Zone A municipalities is achieving and maintaining the total absence of artichoke thistle from within municipal boundaries.

**Zone B municipalities - containment:** Containment is the most appropriate management objective for Zone B municipalities which have problematic infestations but no plan and/or resources to undertake control actions at a level required for eradication. The management outcome for Zone B municipalities is ongoing prevention of the spread of artichoke thistle from existing infestations to areas free or in the process of becoming free of artichoke thistle.

The decision regarding which category is most appropriate for a particular municipality at a particular time is made jointly by DPIPW and each municipality. Municipalities may change categories over time. For example, a Zone B municipality may decide to develop and implement a strategic plan for artichoke thistle, with eradication as the objective. Provided the plan is credible, this municipality would qualify for inclusion in Zone A. Conversely, a Zone A municipality with widespread infestations may decide to stop supporting a strategic plan for artichoke thistle eradication, in which case it would be re-classed as Zone B.

Table 1 lists the distribution and management measures of all Tasmanian municipalities currently classified as Zone A for artichoke thistle. Note that all municipalities are currently classed as Zone A for artichoke thistle.

**Table 1. Distribution and management measures for artichoke thistle in municipalities classified as Zone A at 01/2011.**

Distribution based on Tasmanian Herbarium and DPIPW records.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Artichoke thistle distribution</b>	<b>Management measures*</b>
Break O'Day	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Brighton	Localised infestations	Implement integrated control program for eradication and prevent future occurrences



Burnie	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Central Coast	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Central Highlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Circular Head	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Clarence	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Derwent Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Devonport	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Dorset	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Flinders	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
George Town	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Glenorchy	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Hobart	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Huon Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Kentish	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
King Island	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Kingborough	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Latrobe	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Launceston	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Meander Valley	None recorded	Prevention and early

		detection
Northern Midlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Sorell	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Southern Midlands	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Tasman	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
Waratah/Wynyard	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
West Coast	None recorded	Prevention and early detection
West Tamar	None recorded	Prevention and early detection

\*When a DPIPWE approved weed management strategy that has local council endorsement exists, management of this declared weed in the municipality concerned should occur with direct reference to that strategy.

The following distribution categories are used in Table 1:

“None recorded”. This means the plant is not known to be naturalised in the municipality, either from the records of the Tasmanian Herbarium or from DPIPWE databases. In cases where the plant was known to be naturalised at a previous time but is not known there currently, the description “Previously recorded, none known now” is used.

“Isolated occurrences”. This means the species is uncommon in the municipality, with populations limited to one or a few. The number of plants is generally small and/or populations cover small areas.

“Localised infestations”. This means the species is present in the municipality in moderate proportions, with populations numbering several. The number of plants is also moderate and/or populations cover moderate-sized areas.

“Widespread infestations”. This means the species is very common in the municipality, with many populations present. The number of plants present is generally large and/or populations cover large areas.

Note that the distribution descriptions presented in Table 1 apply to naturalised populations of the plant only. They do not include amenity,

garden, horticultural or other deliberate plantings unless specified. The descriptions are relative and provide a general indication only of the spatial status of the plant in the municipality. Detailed location information may be obtained by contacting a [Regional Weed Management Officer](#). In addition, if you have reason to believe any of the distribution information presented in Table 1 is incorrect, please advise a Regional Weed Management Officer.