



Weed management in coastal areas

G-8.1

Careful planning is very important for successful weed management. Often the most effective way to control weeds is to combine a number of different methods, used at different times. This is often more cost-effective as well. Each method needs to target the weeds when they are most vulnerable, this usually involves treatment prior to seeding.

There are unique and vulnerable coastal values such as Aboriginal heritage sites, threatened species, penguins and shorebirds to consider when planning weed management on the coast. Coastal landforms can be highly susceptible to erosion and weed activities must minimise exposing coastal soils to risk of erosion.

Use these guidelines in conjunction with the information provided in Chapter 8 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure the proposed works use the most effective methods and minimise the risk of causing damage to coastal values.

Planning

Plan weed management works carefully. Seek expert advice and consult with key stakeholders including local Coastcare groups to ensure weed works align with existing strategies and community weed work.

Generate a weed management plan, ensuring it meets statutory requirements and aligns with existing state, national, regional and local strategies. Prioritise weed management works.

Identify any vegetation or wildlife values that may be impacted on by the weeding activities.

Identify and protect any Aboriginal heritage. Consult with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, an assessment and permit may be required.

Weed management

Ensure land management staff, works crews and contractors are trained in weed identification, herbicide use and weed and disease hygiene protocols.

Ensure contractors can demonstrate a high standard of environmental management practices. Provide clear environmental management targets in contract schedules.

Minimise soil and sand disturbance in fragile foreshore and dune landscapes.

Schedule works to avoid shorebird and shearwater breeding times from September to March and penguin breeding and moulting times from August to April.

Schedule any slashing or mowing to promote seeding of native species and minimise seeding of weeds and spreading of weed seeds.

Minimise use of herbicides. Where required ensure the appropriate herbicide is selected and applied correctly and safely.

Identify and report any new weed incursions to DPIPWE weed section.

Dispose of weeds appropriately. Remove all seeds, rhizomes and bulbs. Some weeds require a permit to transport. Check with NRM officer in local council or DPIPWE weed management officer.

Leave weeds where they provide the only habitat for threatened or significant wildlife such as little penguins. Alternatively develop a staged revegetation plan and control weeds in patches once native plants have become established.

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Weed hygiene

Good hygiene is critical in coastal areas, to avoid spreading weeds and diseases, such as Phytophthora root rot, from an infested area to an unaffected area on vehicles, equipment and/or boots.

Washdown tools and machinery to prevent the spread of weeds and disease.

Washdown should be undertaken:

- before entering a new site
- after operating in an area affected by a weed or disease that is under containment
- after transporting weeds or soil known to be infected with weed seeds or a plant pathogen
- before moving machinery along roadsides or river banks, or transporting soil and quarry materials.

Monitoring

Monitoring and annual follow-up are essential components of any weed management program to measure success and allow for ongoing prioritising of weed removal.

A maintenance program should be prepared and implemented at least annually.

Take photos from established photo points.

Map weeds and native vegetation to determine progress

- Check for germinants of weeds (e.g. seedlings)
- Check for regrowth of previously treated plants
- Determine whether there are any invasions of new weed species
- Determine what new works are required and when

More Information

Tasmanian coastal works manual: Chapter 8, Page & Thorp 2010

www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/weeds

Checklist



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Planning

- Expert advice sought
- Weed management plan created & aligns with existing plans
- Consultation with local community care groups undertaken
- Vegetation and wildlife values identified and protected
- Any required vegetation and fauna assessments undertaken
- Aboriginal heritage values identified and protected
- Any required heritage assessments and permits granted

Weed management staff and contractors

- Land management staff, works crews and contractors trained in weed identification, herbicide use and weed and disease hygiene protocols
- Contractors can demonstrate a high standard of environmental management practices
- Clear environmental management targets provided in contract schedules

Weed management

- Weed hygiene practices described and implemented
- Works scheduled to avoid shorebird, penguin and shearwater breeding times
- Any slashing or mowing scheduled to promote seeding of native species and minimise weed seed spread
- Use of herbicides minimised and where required the appropriate herbicide is applied correctly and safely
- Any new weed incursions identified and reported to DPIIWE weed section
- Weeds disposed of appropriately. Permits may be required
- Weeds left or removed in stages where providing habitat for native wildlife
- Monitoring and follow-up program established and implemented

Table 8.1 Weed control methods and timing for the southern temperate zone.

	Woody weeds	Shrubs	Herbaceous plants	Grasses	Vines and scramblers	Bulbs, tubers and rhizomes
Mulch & smother			All year	All year		All year
Soil solarisation [^]			Spring and summer	Spring and summer		Spring and summer
Pull	Before seed set	Before seed set	Before seed set	Before seed set	Before seed set	Before seed set
Cut & paint	Spring	Spring			Spring and summer	
Foliar spray			Spring	Spring and summer	Spring and summer	Spring and summer
Inject	Spring				Spring	
Wipe					Spring	Before flowering

[^] Soil solarisation is the laying of black plastic over the soil. The heat generated by the sun kills many weed seeds and soil diseases.