

Aleppo pine *(Pinus halpensis)*



Aleppo pine is a large, fast-growing, evergreen tree that invades native vegetation. It is the same species as the Lone Pine at Gallipoli and has been planted widely in Australia at war memorial sites. It is a declared weed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Description

Aleppo pine trees grow to over 20 metres in height. At maturity the diameter of the trunk is typically 0.6m and rarely up to 1m. Aleppo pine is easily distinguished from other pine species by the needles which are bright green, 6 to 12cm long, curved and twisted, commonly in pairs and joined by a 1cm basal sheath. The tree has a single trunk that divides into smaller branches that produce a circular crown. The bark appears scaly and grey with a red underside.

Aleppo pine reproduces only by seed. Seeds are contained within cones which often occur in dense groups, hanging below branches. Seeds are shed mostly in summer but also in response to physical disturbance such as fire or felling. Seeds are produced prolifically and mostly fall within 50 metres of the parent tree. Seed in the soil will deteriorate after the first wet season, but seeds retained in cones can remain viable for 50 years. Trees can germinate in established native vegetation, but more usually after disturbances such as tree removal and fire.

Impacts

Aleppo pine is highly invasive in native vegetation including woodlands, grasslands, mallee and coastal dunes.

Once established it forms dense thickets which displace other plants. The oil from fallen needles and shade from the canopy suppress the growth of native plants underneath Aleppo pine. Dense infestations are a fire hazard, with flammable cones and dead lower branches often retained on trees for many years

Distribution

Aleppo pine grows mainly in regions with annual rainfall between 350 and 700mm. The tree is adapted to rocky limestone soils but will grow well in a range of other soil types. Aleppo pine is present throughout the southern Mount Lofty Ranges where it has been planted as an ornamental tree, often in association with war memorials. Feral populations are spreading with significant infestations on Brown Hill Creek, Cudlee Creek, Black Hill and Norton Summit. Infestations have developed on the Fleurieu Peninsula at Sellicks Hill, Rapid Bay, Normanville, the Willunga Basin and Onkaparinga Estuary.

Control methods

Trees may be controlled by felling or stem-injection of herbicide. Younger infestations can be treated with herbicide or by cutting with a brush-cutter. Follow-up is essential as seedlings can appear soon after adult trees are removed. Control work should be planned to minimise disturbance to soil and existing native vegetation. For advice on chemical control techniques contact your nearest Landscape Board.

Please refer to the Weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia for advice on chemical control. You can find it on PIRSA's website at www.pir.sa.gov.au

Declarations

The following sections of the *Landscape SA Act* apply to Aleppo pine in the Hills and Fleurieu region:

- 186(2) Cannot transport the plant or anything carrying it
- 188(1) Cannot sell the plant
- 188(2) Cannot sell any produce / goods carrying the plant
- 192(2) Landowner must control the plant on their land



Needles are bright green, 6 to 12cm long, curved and twisted, commonly in pairs and joined by a 1cm basal sheath.

Further information

Further information is available through Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu

Mount Barker Office:

Cnr Mann & Walker streets, Mount Barker
(08) 8391 7500



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