

Buying fodder and livestock

Are you getting more than you bargained for?



Landholders need to be aware that weed seed can be introduced to their property when bringing in contaminated fodder or stock.

Taking measures to prevent the spread of weeds is the most cost effective way of protecting your property from weed invasion and reducing long-term property management costs.

The potential for weeds to contaminate fodder such as hay, silage or grain is always present. Whenever fodder or new stock are brought onto a property from elsewhere, there is a possibility that weeds may also be introduced. Hay, silage and grain can all contain parts of weeds or seeds that are capable of growing on your property. Stock can carry viable seed in their gut for up to 14 days as well as their hides and feet.

Supplementary feeding is a critical component of stock management, particularly during drought conditions.

Landholders purchase fodder because there are no alternatives. However, by being vigilant you can reduce the chances of introducing new weeds which can cost time and money to control and revenue losses from production or contamination.

During times of drought, the risk of introducing new weeds in contaminated fodder is increased due to the large amounts of fodder moving throughout South Australia. The lack of rain means that many landholders have to supplementary feed their livestock. Others will sell or agist surplus livestock.

Many landholders choose a high input system and supplementary feed which means managing the ongoing risk of introducing weeds to their properties.

The following strategies are available to help you reduce the risk of introducing new weeds to your property. flowering.

Source

- Wherever possible, always purchase stock and fodder from a local reliable source to reduce the likelihood of weeds becoming established on your property.
- Before purchasing, ask if the property where the stock and/or fodder originated is free of noxious weeds such as silverleaf nightshade, Salvation Jane and Chilean needlegrass.
- When buying from a local landowner, ask if you can see the paddock where hay has been cut from.

Feeding out

By following these simple steps you can minimise the risk of introducing new weeds through contaminated fodder or stock.

- Feeding in one paddock only can lead to overgrazing and soil erosion. However, you should limit your feeding to a few locations on the property. Then, if weeds do appear, they can be more easily controlled.
- Consider how the future management of your property might impact on new weed germination and growth. For example, some activities, such as cultivation, suitability for herbicide use, crop species selection and stock management may impact on how easily and quickly new weed infestations can establish.
- All new stock brought onto a property should be placed into a quarantine paddock for 14 days. This will allow time for any weed seed to be passed through the intestinal system and restrict the level of contamination to one small area.
- Best practice is to ensure that fodder or stock that you purchase/bring onto your property is free of both weed seed and parts of weeds.

Be vigilant

- Check the hay feeding areas as often as possible for any unfamiliar plants. These are quite likely to be weeds and should be quickly removed. A rapid response is very important to ensure that they do not get the chance to set seed, resulting in a new generation of weeds.
- You can take a sample of the plant, sealed in a plastic bag, to your local landscape board office for identification and control options.
- By determining what is already on your property, you will be able to identify when something new starts to grow. Also, knowing what type of plant it is (such as annual or perennial) and how it propagates itself (such as seed, corms/bulbs and/or rhizomes) will help in determining the best control program required and when to implement it.

Transporting fodder

- Care should be taken to avoid the spread of weeds onto road reserves and adjacent land when transporting fodder.
- Fodder loads must be secured during transit to avoid blowing of plant material and possible weed seed.
- Vehicles should be cleaned down after deliveries of fodder in a designated area where weed seeds cannot disperse and future weed germinations can be easily detected and treated.
- Ongoing monitoring of local roadsides and farm tracks should be conducted for at least twelve months after delivery.

Clean down machinery

Landholders and contractors need to be aware that it is an offence to move noxious weed seeds in fodder or on machinery beyond a property boundary.

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act (2019)*, a person can be prosecuted for transporting anything contaminated with certain declared noxious weeds.

If you intend to engage contractors, make a point of emphasising the need to arrive and depart your property free of weed seed, soil and vegetable matter on machinery, vehicles and themselves.

Everyone has a duty of care and responsibility to assist with the process of halting the spread of weeds into and around South Australia and interstate.

Contact Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu via the details below for further advice or information.

Further information

Further information is available through Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu

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