

Calomba Daisy (*Oncosiphon suffruticosom*)

November 2015



Calomba Daisy in flower

Calomba Daisy is an annual weed of perennial pastures and coastal vegetation. It occurs mainly in the lower rainfall areas north of Adelaide.

Calomba Daisy is a declared weed under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act).

Description

Calomba Daisy is an erect annual herb that grows to about 60 cm high. The stems are stout and woody.

Leaves are grey-green and finely divided with a feather-like appearance, and have a strong chamomile odour. The first leaves form a small rosette from which an erect, leafy flowering stem grows.

The flowers are minute, mustard yellow and arranged at the ends of the stems in broad, flat ball-shaped heads. The flowers appear in August and September.

Plants die in early summer leaving the dry woody stems which carries the seeds. Some seeds disperse by wind but most remain in the flower head until it breaks up.

Seeds germinate in response to summer rain, and multiple germination events can occur in a single year.

Impacts

Calomba Daisy is unpalatable to stock and displaces desirable pasture plants.

If eaten by stock Calomba Daisy can taint meat and milk products.

Dense stands of Calomba Daisy can reduce the yield of cereal crops. However it is rarely a problem in crops as it is effectively controlled by pre-emergent and broad-leaf herbicides.

Distribution

Calomba Daisy originates from South Africa. It is thought to have been introduced to South Australia in contaminated fodder in 1922.

Calomba Daisy occurs mainly in perennial pastures in the lower rainfall areas north of Adelaide. Marginal cropping areas are most vulnerable, particularly fallow paddocks.

It occurs in native coastal plant communities on raised sandy soils. It mainly invades degraded areas but can displace established samphire vegetation.



Government of
South Australia



Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Thick infestation of Calomba Daisy

Control methods

In semi-arid pastures Calomba Daisy can be controlled by maintaining pasture by light grazing. Small infestations can be managed by hoeing or spot spraying.

For advice on chemical control techniques contact your nearest Natural Resources Centre. Please refer to the *Weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia* for advice on chemical control. You can find it on Biosecurity SA's website at www.pir.sa.gov.au

Declarations

The following sections of the NRM Act apply to Calomba Daisy in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region:

- 175 (2) Cannot transport the plant, or any material or equipment containing that plant, on a public road**
- 177 (1) Cannot sell the plant**
- 177 (2) Cannot sell any produce / goods carrying the plant**
- 182 (2) Landowner must control the plant on their land**
- 185 (1) NRM authority may recover costs for control of weeds on roadsides from adjoining landowners**

More information

Please contact your local Natural Resources Centre for further information, advice and assistance in controlling Calomba Daisy.

Black Hill

115 Maryvale Road, Athelstone 5076
T: 08 8336 0901

Gawler

8 Adelaide Road, Gawler South 5118
T: 08 8523 7700

Willunga

5 Aldinga Road, Willunga 5172
T: 08 8550 3400

