



Government  
of South Australia

# WEED IDENTIFICATION NOTES

ANIMAL AND PLANT CONTROL COMMISSION

## ALEPPO PINE



*Aleppo pine seedlings invading roadside scrub*



*Mature Aleppo pine tree*

# ALEPPO PINE



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Aleppo pine, *Pinus halepensis*, is a fast-growing tree introduced from the Mediterranean. Aleppo pine is now common throughout South Australia as it has been widely planted for windbreaks. However, because it is so invasive, it is important to keep Aleppo pine out of uninfested native vegetation or to recognise and destroy new infestations before they become established.

## Distribution

Eyre Peninsula	- widespread in the south, scattered in the north
Northern pastoral	- absent
Northern ag districts / Yorke Peninsula	- scattered, more common in higher rainfall areas
Murray Mallee	- isolated in the western area of the region
South East	- isolated plants
Central region	- isolated plants in lower rainfall areas

## Impacts

Aleppo pine is an aggressive invader of cleared roadsides and native vegetation. It will compete with established vegetation and will eventually dominate the area infested if left unchecked.

It has been used with great success as a windbreak or for stock shelter in cereal growing areas. It has also been used to reduce soil erosion.

## Recognition

Aleppo pine is an evergreen tree to 20 metres in height, often becoming asymmetrical. It has an extensive root system with the main taproot extending many metres into the ground. The single trunk divides into several main branches above to form an open, round-topped crown. The bark is scaly, dark grey on the outside and red-brown inside. The leaves are bright green needles, 6 to 10 cm long, often curved or twisted and held together in pairs by a basal sheath about 1 cm long. Buds are covered by scales with fringed edges. Pollen is shed in spring. The seed cones are 5 to 11 cm long and 2.5 to 4 cm wide, reddish-brown in colour; they grow singly or in dense groups, hanging downwards on short stalks that bend backwards along the branch. The seeds are about 6 mm long with a wing 25 mm long; they may remain in the cone for several years before being shed.

*Pinus brutia* should not be mistaken for Aleppo pine. It has longer, more rigid leaves to 15 cm long and stalkless cones that spread at right angles to the branches.

## Biology

Aleppo pine is adapted to dry, rocky limestone soils but will grow in other well-drained soils. It is drought tolerant and can persist in low rainfall areas but will thrive in higher rainfall areas.

Aleppo pine reproduces by seed only. Seeds are mostly shed during summer. Up to 90% of seeds can germinate but survival of the seedlings is low. Once Aleppo pine seedlings become established, their growth is rapid. Saplings grow densely with branches down to the ground and will exclude other plants from the site. Cones may be produced as soon 4 years from germination.

The wing on the seed of Aleppo pine enables it to be dispersed by wind. Seeds may travel up to 40 m from the parent plant. They may also be moved short distances by black cockatoos that feed on the seeds by forcing open the cones.

## Further Information:

Spencer, R.D. (1995) Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia Vol. 1. University of NSW Press.

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**For more advice on recognising and controlling Aleppo pine, contact your local Animal and Plant Control Board:**



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