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Brassica napus - environmental weed risk assessment 2022

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Environmental weed risk assessment

Canola - oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*)

Canola is a winter growing oilseed crop from the Brassica family. Canola oil is a vegetable oil derived from a variety of rapeseed that is low in erucic acid.

Canola is the third largest broadacre crop grown in south-western Australia and is widely grown as a break crop in cereal rotations. Western Australia (WA) is the major canola growing state in Australia, accounting for nearly 50% of the nation's five-year average production of 3.6 million tonnes. The majority of WA canola is exported – in 2018 the largest export markets were the European Union for biofuel production and Japan and the United Arab Emirates for human use.

Canola could be grown in northern WA over the dry season under irrigation, but to date there is limited yield data.

Weed lists

National-international:

- Not listed in Weeds of Australia (398 weed species) <https://weeds.org.au/weeds-profiles/>
- Not listed in Weeds of Australia website [Fact sheet Index \(lucidcentral.org\)](https://www.lucidcentral.org/fact-sheet-index/)
- In the Global Compendium of Weeds, canola is listed as a agricultural weed, casual alien, cultivation escape, environmental weed, garden thug, naturalised, noxious weed, weed

Western Australia:

- “.....It is a widespread crop and is found commonly along roadsides in the South-West of the State, where seed may have spilled from trucks. These populations do not usually persist but are replenished annually” (Hussey et al. 2007)
- Recorded as naturalised in the following IBRA Regions of WA – (Geraldton sandplains, Swan coastal plain, Jarrah forest, Avon wheatbelt, Mallee, Warren and Esperance (Keighery and Longman 2004)
- Not listed in Environmental weeds of Western Australia (Keighery 1991).



Figure 1 Distribution of canola (*Brassica napus*) in Australia (Source: 'The Australasian Virtual Herbarium')

Environmental weed risk assessment

Assessed using the 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands' (Moore et al. 2022)

| Region | Filter A | Filter B | Weed Risk Assessment rating |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Is the species a weed in similar environments in Australia or overseas? | Is the species likely to persist in the environment without management*? | |
| Kimberley | No | No | Negligible to low |
| Pilbara | No | No | Negligible to low |
| Gascoyne – Goldfields | No | No | Negligible to low |
| Agricultural area | No | No | Negligible to low |

*Without management means no fertiliser, Rhizobia, irrigation, grazing management or control of competition from other species

References

Hussey BMJ, Keighery GJ, Dodd J, Lloyd SG, Cousens RD (2007) 'Western weeds. A guide to the weeds of Western Australia'. Second Edition. The Weeds Society of Western Australia Inc.

Keighery GJ (1991) Environmental weeds of Western Australia. *Kowari*, **2**: 180-188.

Keighery G, Longman V (2004) The naturalized vascular plants of Western Australia 1: Checklist, environmental weeds and distribution in IBRA regions. *Plant Protection Quarterly*, **19(1)**: 12-32.

Moore G, Munday C, Barua P (2022) 'Environmental weed risk assessment protocol for growing non-indigenous plants in the Western Australian rangelands', Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, *Bulletin no. 4924*, Perth.

Randall RP (2017) 'Global compendium of weeds' (No. Ed. 3).

Weeds of Australia database

https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/trifolium_repens.htm Site accessed 30
November 2021

Assessment by G Moore and N Nazeri
January 2022

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