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Environmental Weed Risk Assessments

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2022

## Cucumis melo - environmental weed risk assessment 2022

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia

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## Environmental weed risk assessment

### Rockmelon (*Cucumis melo*)

Rockmelon (cantaloupe) is a flowering plant species of the Cucurbitaceae family and the name of its edible fruit. A scrambling and trailing vine-like plant, it is a highly cultivated fruit worldwide. Rockmelons most likely originated in a region from South Asia to Africa and have been grown commercially since the 1800s.

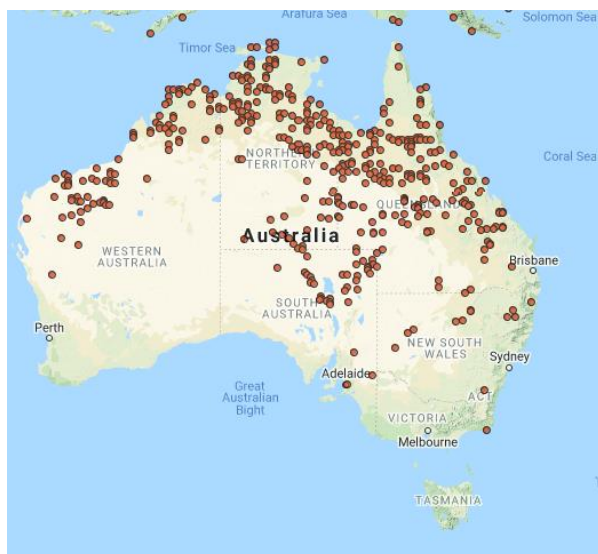
#### Weed lists

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, rockmelon is listed as an agricultural weed, casual alien, cultivation escape, environmental weed, garden thug, naturalised, noxious weed, weed (Randall 2017).

Western Australia:

- “Recorded from WA but doubtfully naturalised - have been collected from Kimberley (weedy native)” (Hussey et al. 2007)
- Not listed in ‘The naturalized vascular plants of Western Australia 1: Checklist, environmental weeds, and distribution in IBRA regions’ (Keighery and Longman 2004)
- Not listed in ‘Environmental weeds of Western Australia’ (Keighery 1991).



**Figure 1.** Distribution of rockmelon (*Cucumis melo*) in Australia  
(Source: ‘The Australasian Virtual Herbarium’)

## Environmental weed risk assessment (cultivated variant)

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](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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