Distribution, economic impact and attitudes towards silverleaf nightshade (Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav.) in Australia

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Summary  A mail survey of a total of 254 land managers in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia shows that silverleaf nightshade (Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav.) has spread widely throughout the wheat belts of these states. On average, S. elaeagnifolium costs affected farmers $1730 per year in control costs and $7786 per year in production losses. Approximately 24% of infestations reported were medium to dense and 76% were rare to scattered. The average infestation size was larger in South Australia (468 ha) compared with Victoria (270 ha) and New South Wales (218 ha). The most affected land use was cropping (56%) followed by grazing (34%). The survey has highlighted support for a biological control program and the need to control this nationally important weed.

Keywords  Survey, Solanum elaeagnifolium, economic impact, biological control.