

## Legal and economic constraints on *Emex*

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### Abstract

*Emex australis* is a declared weed in many parts of Australia and the declaration status for each State is presented. *Emex australis* is also a contaminant of crops, with restrictions on delivery of produce containing achenes applied for grains and dried grapes. The receival standards for grain crops are presented, while the costs of cleaning dried grapes with spiked seed contamination are given.

### Introduction

Various restrictions apply to *Emex* around Australia. These include requirements for prevention of spread or control by landholders, and to costs associated with delivery of goods grown where *Emex* occurs. Many of these restrictions are established in law and legally enforceable by either government agencies or by the purchasing agencies. This paper gives an overview of the types of legal and economic constraints which apply to *Emex* in Australia.

### Noxious or declared weed status

*Emex australis* is considered to be either a noxious or declared weed in all or part of all States of Australia and the Northern Territory. Table 1 shows the declaration status for this species across Australia.

The related species *Emex spinosa* is also declared in Western Australia at the same locations.

### Restrictions on delivery of produce

*Emex*, like many other weeds, has restrictions placed on it when the seeds are delivered in agricultural produce. The two crop areas for which these restrictions are

present are grains (cereals, pulses, oilseeds) and dried fruit (dried grapes). The receival standards for grain delivered to marketing authorities are presented in Table 2.

As can be seen from Table 2, the only crop for which contamination levels are standardized across Australia is for wheat. While pulse crops have the same levels within States, differences occur between States, with NSW generally being the strictest.

The other crop for which restrictions are placed on the presence of *Emex* in produce is dried fruit and in particular, dried table grapes. In this case a more general approach is taken with all spiked seeds being grouped. This class also includes caltrop and spiny burr grass. The costs associated with these seeds as a group are presented in Table 3.

**Table 2. Receival standards for grain crops contaminated with *Emex*. (Maximum counts per unit).**

Crop	WA	SA	VIC	NSW	QLD
Wheat (all grades)	8/0.5 L	8/0.5 L	8/0.5L	8/0.5 L	8/0.5 L
Barley					
- malt	1/0.5 L	0/0.5 L	0/100 g	1/0.5 L	
- feed	20/0.5 L	1/100 g	0/100 g	2/0.5 L	
Oats					
- milling	1/0.5 L	0/100 g	8/0.5 L	5/0.5 L	
- feed	1/0.5 L	5/0.5 L	8/0.5 L	5/0.5 L	
Sorghum					2/0.5 L
Lupins	20/0.5 L	5/200 g	4/200 g	2/200 g	
Field peas					
- milling	5/0.5 L	5/200 g	4/200 g	2/200 g	
- feed	15/0.5 L	5/200g	4/200 g	2/200 g	
Chick pea	5/0.5 L	5/200 g	4/200 g	2/200 g	
Faba bean	5/0.5 L	5/200 g	4/200 g	2/200 g	
Canola	1/0.5 L				2-3% fm
Sunflower					2-3% fm
Soybean					2-3% fm

fm = foreign material

**Table 1. Declaration status of *Emex australis* in Australia (From: Parson and Cuthbertson 1992).**

State or Territory	Status	Notes
New South Wales	Certain shires and municipalities	Owners required to control or eradicate weed
Victoria	Whole State except Melbourne metropolitan area	Owners required to control or eradicate weed
Queensland	P2 - local authority area of Atherton	P2 = to be destroyed in area
South Australia	Class 2 - whole State	Class 2 = control or destruction required
Northern Territory	Class B and C, whole Territory	Class B = to be controlled - further spread prevented and small infestations eradicated Class C = introduction prohibited
Western Australia	P1, Zone 6 (South-west corner) P1, P3, Jerramungup region P5 in saleyards, railway yards, recreational areas of the Lakes and Esperance regions Pest plant in six shires	P1 = plants not to be introduced P3 = populations must be reduced P5 = plants which are to be treated on roadsides or reserves 'pest plant' = shire can proscribe plant
Tasmania	Noxious and prohibited	Not to be introduced and must be eradicated if found

Under the Australian Dried Fruit Association Weed Free Property Assurance Program a \$40 t<sup>-1</sup> premium applies for dried fruit from certified properties. Thirty four growers were in the scheme at December 1994.

### Acknowledgments

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### References

- Anon. (1994). Classification of dried vine fruit at receival. Australian Dried Fruit Association News, December, 1994.  
Parsons, W.T. and Cuthbertson, E.G. (1992). 'Noxious Weeds of Australia'. (Inkata Press, Melbourne).

**Table 3. Spiked seed cleaning costs in dried fruit (Anon. 1994).**

Contamination level	Cleaning cost
1 or 2/bin	\$A20
3-20/bin	\$A75
21+/bin	\$A100