

Module 3.2 ALIEN AND INVASIVE SPECIES		STATEMENT OF INTENT Alien and invasive species and weeds posing potential threats to biodiversity are controlled
Measures		Notes
Legal requirement	<p>Compliance with the Regulations published in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983 for the control of weeds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declared weeds (Category 1 plants) that occur on land or on inland water are controlled Category 2 plants that occur on land or inland water outside a demarcated area are controlled. Category 2 plants may not be planted within 30 m of the 1:50 year flood line of a water resource unless authorised under the National Water Act. 	<p>There are two Acts that control the spread of weeds(CARA) and alien and invasive species (NEM:BA)</p> <p>Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 43 of 1983</p> <p>The first piece of legislation to combat weeds and invader plants was the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) The objectives of the Act are, <i>inter alia</i>, to combat weeds and invader plants to ensure the conservation of natural agricultural resources. The Act prohibits the selling, possession, transport, or disposal of any weed or invader plant. Regulations were published in March 2001 which declared certain species of plants as weeds and invader plants - indigenous plants that will invade veld or increase in density (bush encroachment) as a result of poor grazing practices.</p> <p>The CARA Regulations separates the weeds into three categories in terms of their threat to the ecological functioning of natural systems and the productive use of land.</p> <p>Category 1 plants Declared weeds are known as Category 1 plants and may not occur on any land or inland water surface, and must be controlled a – this includes mechanical, chemical and biological control as well as the mandatory requirements of follow-up operations.</p> <p>Examples of Category 1 plants are: Mauritius thorn, pom-pom weed, inkberry, trifid weed, camphor tree, lantana, oleander, various prickly pear species, American bramble, sesbania and Bugweed.</p> <p>Category 2 plants These may also not occur on any land or inland water surface other than what is known as a demarcated area. The area in which Category 2 plants are permitted contains most of the commercial tree species</p> <p>No land user may allow Category 2 plants to occur within 30m of the 1:50 year flood line of a water resource (river, stream, spring, lake, dam or wetland) unless authorised in terms of the NWA.</p> <p>Examples of Category 2 plants are black wattle, blackwood, silver wattle, eucalyptus and pine (all commercial forestry species), poplar, castor-oil plant and weeping willow.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Legal requirement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Category 3 plants have been planted or propagated after 30 March 2001 • Category 3 plants must be removed if they occur within 30 m of the 1:50 year flood line of a water resource. • A control plan exists for the management of invasive plant species on the farm <p>Category 3 plants These are not permitted to occur on any land or water surface, but as they are the most benign of the three categories, plants in existence at the time of the commencement of the regulations (30 March 2001) are not required to be removed. However, if they occur within 30m of the 1:50 year flood line of a river, stream, spring, lake, dam or wetland, then they must be removed. No Category 3 plants may be established, propagated, sold or acquired after 30 March 2001.</p> <p>Examples of Category 3 plants are: loquat, jacaranda, various species of privets, syringa, firethorns, cassia, tipu tree and others.</p> <p>National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004</p> <p>The second piece of legislation is the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). This Act regulates both alien and invasive plant and animal species through the publication of both Regulations and lists of alien and invasive species. The Regulations came into effect on 1 October 2014 and were amended in July 2016</p> <p>List of Alien and Invasive Species</p> <p>NEMBA has Regulations that list invasive plants and animals that pose potential threats to biodiversity.</p> <p>No person may conduct a restricted activity (see below) involving a listed alien or invasive species without first obtaining a permit, unless exempted from such requirement. Unfortunately, some weeds recognised under CARA have, to some extent, been duplicated under the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations. This duplication is confusing and creates uncertainty in both the regulator and the farmer. However, as the CARA List is likely to be repealed, the latest AIS Regulations should be followed.</p> <p>Invasive species control plans</p> <p>The Department of Environment Affairs have drafted guidelines for the development of monitoring, control and eradication plans for species listed as invasive (September 2015). The guidelines are intended for use by any land manager wishing to manage invasive species on their land. They are available on the following website: https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/legislations/nemba_invasivespecies_controlguideline.pdf</p>
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Legal requirement		<p>Restricted activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) importing; (ii) possessing or exercising physical control over; (iii) growing, breeding or propagating; (iv) moving or translocating; (v) trading in, (vi) any other prescribed activity, in respect of such species, unless authorised in terms of a permit which may require a risk assessment before the application for a permit will be considered. <p>The list of alien and invasive species is extensive and confusing and involves over 300 species of plants and 200 species of animals. The current list (2016) can be accessed from the DEA website (www.environment.gov.za).</p> <p>Restricted activities involving certain alien or invasive species may be totally prohibited, in which case a permit will not be granted.</p>
Better Management Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers should be aware of, and should consider using biological weed control measures for areas on their farms 	<p>Biological weed control</p> <p>Host-specific insects, pathogens, or mites can be released on some alien species, e.g. chromolaena, lantana, water hyacinth. These eat leaves, stems, shoots, flowers or roots, eventually killing the plant. These host-specific organisms eat only one weed species and do not attack related crops or indigenous plants. SASRI is mass-rearing biological control agents for chromolaena, lantana, pereskia, water hyacinth, water lettuce and kariba weed (Salvinia). These agents are released in KZN by the Department of Environmental Affairs, 'Working for Water' programme. Farmers can contact SASRI, should they want to source these agents.</p>