

# Towards a policy for exemption of low risk, commercially valuable cultivars of declared plants

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# REVIEW OF DECLARED PLANTS

- First complete review since 1991
- Policies developed based on risk assessment, adopted following public consultation, approval by the eight NRM boards
- 163 revised policies: 42 new weeds added, 10 removed
- Several ornamentals added. Approx 2/3 of naturalised plants in Australia are garden escapes



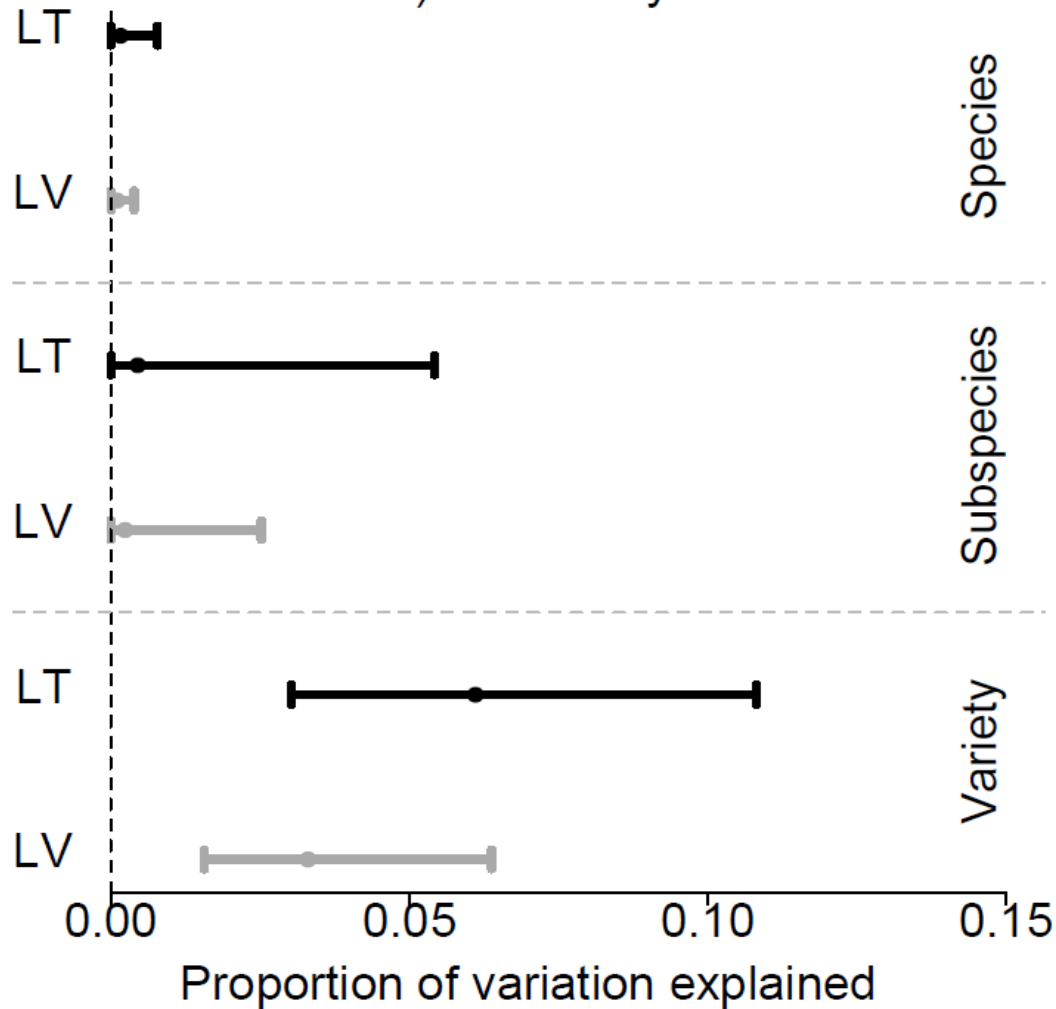
# CULTIVARS

- Issue of exemption raised for cultivars of 7 declared plants
- Clonal perennials or line-bred annuals
- Formally published names e.g. *Gazania* 'Sugata'
- Selected for desirable characteristics that are maintained by propagation
- Often these characteristics are related to weed risk, e.g. hardiness, growth rate



# VARIATION IN WEED RISK

a) Taxonomy



R Meffin, RP  
Duncan, PE Hulme  
2018

Testing weed risk  
assessment  
paradigms

J. of Applied  
Ecology



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# ISSUE

- Declarations of weedy taxa are framed to capture all weedy biotypes of the target plant
- However, since there can be considerable variation within species, declared of a weedy species may inadvertently capture other non-weedy forms in cultivation



# EXEMPTIONS FROM DECLARATION

<i>Acer negundo</i> (box elder)	Sensation
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> (ground asparagus)	Myersii (foxtail fern)
<i>Casuarina glauca</i> (swamp oak)	Cousin It, CAS01 (Freefall)
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> (desert ash)	Raywood
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> (coastal tea-tree)	Fore Shore, Shore Tuff
<i>Gazania</i> spp.	GT20 (Double Gold) Sugaja (Sunset Jane) Sugamo (Montezuma)
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	Hybrid cultivars of <i>Polygala</i> X <i>dalmaisia</i>



# DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY

- Minimise economic, environmental and social impacts of weeds and weed regulation.
- Provide certainty to stakeholders regarding the criteria, processes and evidential requirements for exemptions.
- Ensure that a transparent, evidence-based approach is used to assess applications for cultivars of declared plants to be exempted.
- Provide a basis for industry to plan and participate as a partner in the process.





## Wild type *Leptospermum laevigatum*



- Native to eastern Australia
- Disperses via numerous small seeds
- Displaces native coastal vegetation





## *Leptospermum laevigatum* 'Shore Tuff'



- Does not produce viable seed
- Short statured
- Not grounds for 'blanket' exemption
- Need to be clear and unambiguous what is exempted



# 1. IDENTITY

- Documented, verifiable identification such as published description or PBR
- PBR carries IP rights
- Trade names not suitable as they can be used for multiple cultivars



## 2. REPRODUCTION

- Risk averse, practical approach
- No vegetative reproduction by bulbils, stolons, layers, or live fragments that break off
- No viable seed production due to
  - Double flowers lacking functional styles or stamens
  - Flowers not open to pollination
  - Triploidy or pentaploidy
  - High polyploidy
  - Hybridity
- Assessed in robust, independent trials





# GAZANIA<sub>a</sub>



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# *Gazania* 'GT20'



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# CONSIDERATIONS

## SPECIFIC AND IDENTIFIABLE

1. Is the cultivar subject to Plant Breeders Rights? Or can its identity be guaranteed in some other way?

## LOW-RISK

2. Is its seed production zero, or reduced to a negligible level?
3. Is its vegetative spread zero or negligible?

Other widely accepted options for assessing risk?





# PLANT SURE

Please join us

FRIDAY 23RD FEB

9:30am - 3:00pm

NSW Business  
Chamber Level 12, 100 George  
Street Parramatta 2150

RSVP: Des Boorman (NGINA)  
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## PLANT SURE SCHEME WORKSHOP



### Workshop Style

This Workshop will actively engage participants in exploring and discussing key conceptual aspects of the Plant Sure Scheme



### What type of Scheme?

Join us to explore the mechanism or framework used to ensure that high risk 'weedy' ornamental plants are not grown, sold or installed in Australia



### The Plant Risk Assessment Tool

Learn more about the Ornamental Plants Decision Support Tool and how it will assess weed risk.

- Voluntary Environmental Accreditation Program allowing green life industry to be recognised for proactively addressing issue of invasive plants
- Initiative led by an industry, government and environmental NGO consortium
- Rigorous risk assessment
- Potential to be nationally applicable
- National exemption provides clear and reliable basis for breeders to develop low risk cultivars

Finest, high risk (weedy) ornamental plants produced, supplied, sold or installed in NSW.  
The Plant Sure - Environmentally Safe Ornamental Plant Scheme is managed by a Consortium which includes key stakeholders from industry and government.



This project is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust



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