Permit to use a declared weed
In all instances isolated athel pine populations and deliberate plantings must be eradicated. An exception may occur where an application for a permit for low risk amenity plantings of athel pine has been successful.

Eradication and control methods
Management of isolated athel pine trees and small infestations can be relatively straightforward. In contrast, well established infestations may pose significant management problems. To help Territorians achieve their obligations, the draft Plan includes information on best practice management techniques, including physical/mechanical removal and chemical control and spread prevention procedures.

The best methods for control of athel pine are predominantly mechanical and chemical. Control techniques suitable for large infestations include blade ploughing of areas infested with seedlings, and bulldozing and deep ripping of larger trees. Outlying infestations and amenity plantings can be chemically treated. If tree material is cut down, care should be taken to ensure plant material does not re-establish. Debris should not be left in flood zone areas as athel pine can spread by flood waters and take root downstream.

Preventing the spread of any weed is always the most cost effective form of weed control. Cleaning of vehicles and machinery used for athel pine control is important to avoid further spread.

Weed Management Planning
Successful weed management can require significant investment over an extended period of time. In particular, the control of large, established infestations requires careful planning, prioritisation and budgeting. Even then, results may not be immediately apparent. Follow-up treatment and repeated effort will be required for best results.

How to provide feedback
You can provide feedback on the draft Weed Management Plan for Athel Pine by:

- Sending a written submission to:
  Weed Management Branch
  Department of Land Resource Management
  PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831
  Fax: 08 8999 4445
  Email: weedinfo@nt.gov.au; or
- Calling the Weed Management Planner, Belinda Townend, on 8946 5217 to discuss;
- Calling the Regional Weed Officer in Alice Springs, Chris Brown, on 8951 9210 to discuss; or
- Face to face with the Weed Management Planner (Level 3 Goyder Building, Palmerston) or Alice Springs Regional Weed Officer (AZRI Building, Alice Springs).

Public comment closes Thursday 4 August 2016.
To view the Draft Weed Management Plan visit https://landresources.nt.gov.au/consultation-reports

For further information or to request a hard copy of the draft Weed Management Plan for Athel Pine phone 08 8999 4567 (Darwin) or 08 8951 9210 (Alice Springs).
Athel pine (Tamarix aphylla) is a large, spreading tree up to 15 m tall. It is not a true conifer or pine, however the needle-like leaves give it the appearance of one. Athel pine needles have salt secreting glands giving the tree foliage a silvery grey appearance and it has small, white and pink flowers that appear every summer (generally after three years of age).

Athel pine was deliberately introduced into Australia in the 1930s and was widely planted for shade and windbreaks into the 1970s. Since its introduction, athel pine has demonstrated highly invasive tendencies, establishing across large areas of inland Australia. It can lower water tables, drain waterholes and deprive native species of water and habitat. Athel pine can also change river flow patterns and cause overland flooding and bank erosion.

In the Northern Territory (NT) athel pine is well established in the Finke River, which is the largest naturalised infestation in Australia. Infestations outside this core area, such as those found in Walker and Karinga Creeks are of lower density. Historical and amenity plantings are considered a potential cause of spread. Control and removal of these outlier infestations is a management priority.

**Declaration status**

Athel pine is declared under section 7 of the Weeds Management Act as:

Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) in areas shown in blue on the map below. All other areas are classified as Class A (to be eradicated). Athel pine is also declared a Class C weed (not to be introduced to the NT) and is a Weed of National Significance.

**Management requirements**

All land owners, managers and users, are required to control athel pine as per the general management areas below:

1. Amenity, cultural, urban or historic plantings in the A/C zone
   - Eradicate plants (if not deemed significant under a permit)

2. Naturalising infestations in the A/C zone and upstream managed area of the Finke River
   - Maintain eradication targets in the upper managed section of the Finke catchment (upstream of Horseshoe Bend Station boundary)

3. Infestations in the downstream managed area of the Finke River (B/C zone) on Horseshoe Bend Station
   - Continue control of historically managed and newly emerged infestations located within the Finke River main channel in the downstream managed area of the Finke catchment on Horseshoe Bend Station.

4. Infestations in all other areas of the B/C zone and Finke River containment zone
   - Plan and implement a management program. Prioritise control works for your infestation in the following order:
     - Single trees in otherwise clean areas or areas previously under control works
     - Small, outlying or easy to control infestations
     - Upstream infestations
     - Upwind infestations (prevailing summer/autumn weather)
     - Containment of core infestation located in main Finke River channel

**Management requirement areas for athel pine control in the NT**

![Map of Athel Pine Management Areas](image-url)