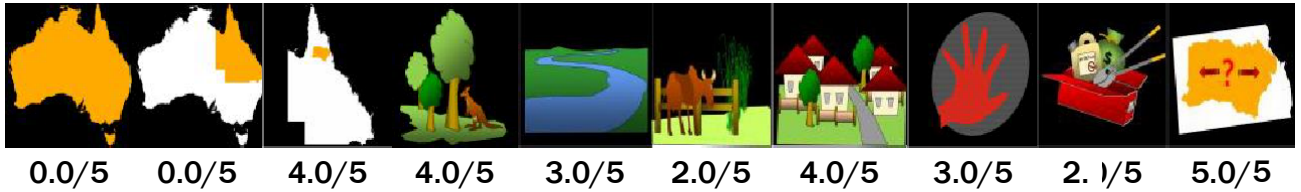


Sansiviera trifasciata (Mother-in-laws tongue)

Priority



Details

Description: Mother-in-laws tongue is an upright, variegated succulent that spreads from leaf fragments, runners and seeds. Although quite variable in colour the leaves usually have a defined yellow to white margin and a sharp, pointed tip. Sansiviera can occur as small clumps or as a dominant understorey plant in older infestations. It produces small orange berries on upright flower spikes.

Distribution: Sansiviera is almost always associated with people and gardens and may be present in bushland where it has spread from neighbouring gardens or has been dumped in green waste. In the Cook Shire it is primarily only naturalised in the Cooktown area.

Impacts: A weed of the environment particularly of sandy and well drained soils in coastal areas. Sansiviera forms a dense, thick ground cover which smothers native plants.

Key projects: Control works have occurred on several large infestations around Cooktown.

Management requirements



Delimitation

Several intensive control projects have removed large infestations of mother-in-laws tongue in the Cooktown area. More information is needed on the full distribution of this weed in natural areas.

Prevention

Mother in laws tongue is a weed of gardens and adjoining bushland. It is spread by dumping of garden waste and by seed which is eaten by birds.

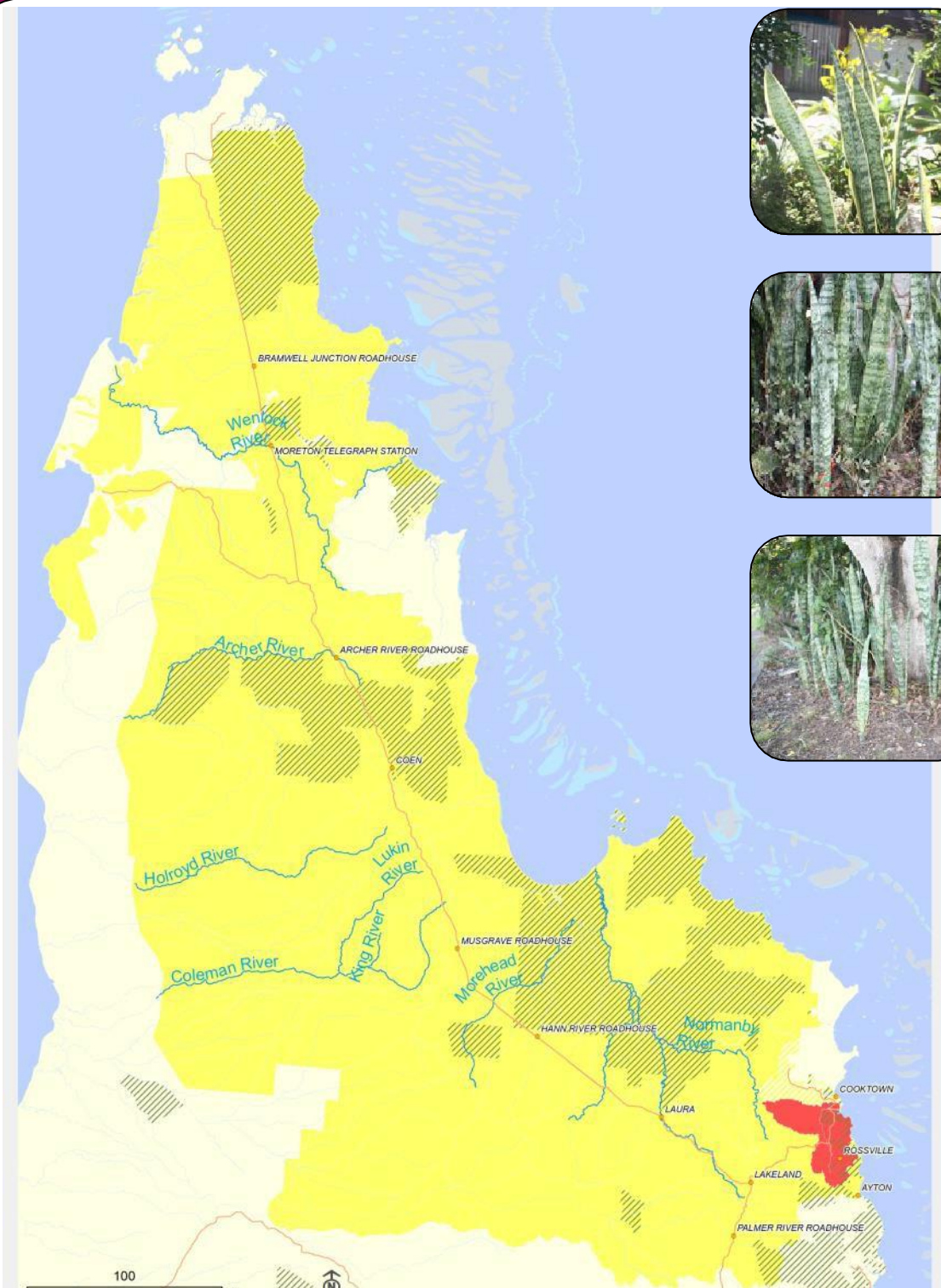
Ensuring that garden materials do not include Sansiviera or other succulents is the most effective means of reducing the risk of spread in the Cook Shire.

Asset protection

Mother in laws tongue requires repeat applications of manual removal to carefully dig runners from the soil. Any small fragments which remain can form new plants so follow up and persistence is essential to successful control. A range of herbicides are available to manage this weed in natural areas but there application may be restricted in infestations in close proximity to watercourses and desirable native vegetation.

Control Calendar

flower	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
seed	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
herbicide			○	◐	●	●	◐	○				
mechanical	○	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	○	○
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Biology			●		●			○			⊗	⊗
Control			Peak		First/last flush			Occasional			n/a	Not recommended
			●		○			○			○	
			Optimal		Good			Marginal				

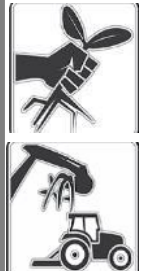


- terrestrial
- succulent
- perennial

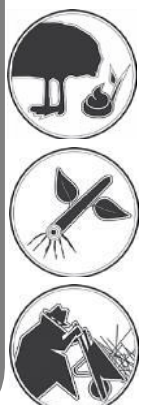
Category

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Control



Spread



What is my biosecurity obligation?

<p>Delimitation zone</p>
<p>Prevention zone</p>
<p>Asset protection zone</p>

Report any suspected outbreaks or detections in the prevention or eradication zones to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444. Ensure garden waste is disposed of responsibly and that Mother in laws tongue is not given away, sold or introduced from other regions.

Ensure best practice weed hygiene measures are in place to reduce risk of spread to new locations. Maintain weed free areas. Minimise or prevent soil disturbance in known infestations.

For more information on management aims in each zone refer to *Using the pest plan templates*