

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2076

Secretary: Alan Murphy

Editor: Lawrie Greenup

Assistant Editor: Hanwen Wu

50 Summer/Autumn 2010



Hairy panic *Panicum effusum*



Office Bearers for 2010

President	Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga]
Vice President	Vacant
Immediate Past President	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
Secretary	Alan Murphy [Umina]
Treasurer	Jim Swain [Thornleigh]
Public Officer	Mike Barrett [Beecroft]

Committee Members

Newsletter Editor	Lawrie Greenup [Westleigh]
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]
CAWS Delegates	Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga], Warwick Felton [Tamworth]
Committee	Phillip Blackmore [Armidale], Tony Cook [Tamworth], Warwick Felton [Tamworth], Lawrie Greenup [Westleigh], Birgitte Verbeek [Tamworth], Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]

Committee Meeting Dates for 2010 - *contact Secretary for details*

February 12	April 9	June 11
August 13	September 8	December 18
Annual General Meeting	November 18	<i>[to be confirmed]</i>

Newsletter issues & deadlines for 2010 are as follows:

# 51	Winter	30 June
# 52	Spring	30 September
# 53	Summer	1 December

Weed Society of New South Wales

The Society was formed in 1966, the first weed society in Australia. It is affiliated with similar societies in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand under the umbrella organisation – The Council of Australasian Weeds Societies [CAWS]

Society Aims:-

- To promote a wider interest in weeds and their management.
- To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their management and to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed management.
- To co-operate with other organisation engaged in related activities in Australia, New Zealand and overseas.
- To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- To produce and publish such material as may be considered desirable.

Membership is open to all and costs \$40.00 per annum for general membership, \$20.00 per annum for bona fide students. For an application form contact: **Secretary PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2067**

Website www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Email contacts:
Secretary: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au
Treasurer: treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au
Editor: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Society News

President's Column

Welcome to the first edition of A Good Weed for 2010. Following the AGM late last year, we have several new faces on the executive committee, Tony Cook and Phil Blackmore.



I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome these people onto the committee and also thank the members of the previous committee for again taking positions on the executive. Several people from the previous committee declined to renominate, and I would like to thank

these people for the enormous amount of time and energy they have contributed to the Society over many years.

A brief summary of the AGM is included in this newsletter.

One small downside has been the recent resignation of Stephen Johnson from the committee and also from his role as newsletter editor. Stephen's enthusiasm and energy will be missed, and I would like to thank Stephen for his contributions in recent years.

It is also timely to remind members that the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference will be held 26-30th September. This will be the first Australasian Weeds Conference to be held outside Australia as the venue is Christchurch, New Zealand. The organising committee have an impressive list of submitted papers covering a broad range of subjects and interests. As well as the formal presentations, the conference is a

good opportunity to meet other people active in weed management.

The Society executive has expressed interest in the Society being represented on the core management body for the Biennial NSW Weeds Conference. This collaboration has many benefits, including closer linkages between our Society and the numerous personnel directly employed in weed management throughout the state who regularly attend this conference.

At a national level, the Society has been active in promoting stronger linkages between CAWS (Council of Australasian Weed Societies) and NGIA (Nursery and Garden Industry Australia) through the current CAWS Weedwise Nursery Award. This award is aimed at giving recognition to nurseries that are aware of potentially weedy garden plants and manage their stock accordingly. The closer involvement of the NGIA will help promote the message.

I would like to draw your attention to the Student Award and the Travel Awards. Details and deadlines are included in this newsletter. These awards are open to all who meet the awards criteria

Finally, I would like to congratulate Peter McMaugh for being the recipient of the prestigious Graham Gregory Award for his contribution to the turf industry. Peter has been a long-time member of the Society and has been an active participant in Society activities.

Congratulations & well done Peter.

Rex Stanton
President

Society News

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report.

For the period 1st October 2009 to the 6th April 2010 the society has shown a loss of \$3901.56.

Membership subscriptions are now being received and for the period 11th February 2010 to the 6th April 2010 there has been a loss \$1,168.40.



A loan of \$2,500.00 was made to RG and F Richardson to support the book they are producing for Ros Shepherd. This loan will be repaid on sale of the book which reduces the overall loss for the year to date to \$1,401.56.

Account/term deposit balances -as at 6th April 2010.

Club Cheque Account \$1,865.95

Money Extra Cash Management \$10,686.47

Term Deposits

- \$23,411.63 – expires 24th September 2010 – 6.0%
- \$22,897.27 – expires 24th April 2010 – 4.60%
- \$22,987.46 - expires 24th July 2010 – 6.05%

With funds of \$81,849.78 the society is in a sound financial position, however we must be cognisant of the need to ensure that we at least maintain our current financial position and in this regard must ensure that seminars and other activities show a profit.

Membership renewals for 2010 were sent out in March which is leading to an increase in the society's funds.

All sponsors -- Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, Syngenta, Scotts, Luhrmann Environment Management Pty Ltd and ChemCert Australia have paid their 2010 sponsorship of \$300.00 to support the production of the newsletter *A Good Weed*.

Membership.

We currently have 68 who have paid their 2010 subscriptions with 78 who are still outstanding for 2010. Of those 11 are still outstanding for 2009 and 2010. With 2 life members this gives a total membership of 148. Those members whose fees are still outstanding are urged to make their payments as soon as possible. Members whose fees for 2009 and 2010 are still outstanding as at 30th June 2010 will be removed from the membership list in accordance with the Societies constitution

Jim Swain
Honorary Treasurer
12th April 2010.



Black or spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*

Society News



Travel Support Grant

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. offers travel support grants. Successful applicants receive financial assistance to attend conferences, or to travel on specific interstate or overseas study tours. The grant is for the period 1 July to 30 June each year and must be taken up during that period.

Successful applicants receive financial assistance to attend conferences, or to travel on specific interstate or overseas study tours. The grant is for the period 1 July to 30 June each year and must be taken up during that period.

Applicants must be:

- over 18 years old,
- reside in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory,
- be involved with weed research, management, advisory, regulation, or practice and
- have been a current member of the Society for at least one year.

Rarely will the grant meet all of the travel expenses so the applicants are expected to contribute, or arrange additional support elsewhere.

Successful applicants are expected to return to service in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory and are required to submit a written report to the society soon after returning to duty.

Applications are to be forwarded by the 1st June each year to:-

**The Secretary
Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 438
WAHROONGA NSW 2076**

Student Prize

The Weed Society has contributed an annual award to under-graduate students at universities who study a weed science course, who have been recognised by the Faculty for excelling in this subject. The value of the award is \$250. This will only be provided if the weeds course is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant our ongoing support.

We believe a 2nd and/or 3rd year module of at least one term of lectures on weeds is the minimum requirement. The award is not for post-graduate students. They can be encouraged to join our society and be eligible for our Travel Support Grant.

Weeds cost the Australian economy billions of \$'s each year so it is appropriate that universities adequately train future agriculturalists and environmental managers on the diversity of weed species, their adaptation and impact, and management. These complexities cannot be learned from just a few first year lectures.

Applications are to be forwarded by the 1st June each year to:-

**The Secretary
Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 438
WAHROONGA NSW 2076**

Applications are to be forwarded by the 1 June

Application forms can be downloaded from the Society's website www.nswweedsoc.org.au or by contacting the secretary at the above postal address

Society News

An Australian Prestigious Award to Peter McMaugh



Peter McMaugh being presented with the Graham Gregory Award by the former Horticulture Australia Limited Chairman Dr Nigel Steele

The first Australian scientist to specialise in turf research and a long-time member of the Weed Society of New South Wales, Peter McMaugh, was named the recipient of the 2009 Graham Gregory Award for excellence in horticulture.

Among Peter's many achievements are creating the name for Australia's most recognised buffalo grass, Sir Walter, developing the drop-in wicket in the early days of one day cricket and establishing Australia's first turf research organisation

Of his 45-year career Peter said the thing he was most proud of is still to be working in an industry in which he was the first scientist to work full-time in Australia."

As director of the Grass Research Bureau NSW, renamed the Australian Turf Research Institute (ATRI) in 1970, Peter oversaw the discovery of a new species of nematode that was devastating turf in NSW's Hunter Region, which led to its control. He co-developed innovative machinery to improve turf

maintenance and developed controls to eradicate invasive species in Bent grass putting greens and Couch grass fairways, thus helping to improve the quality of Australian golf courses.

There are many things of interest to Peter during his career. One of these has been weeds and he has been an active member of the N.S.W. Weeds Society ever since his days at A.T.R.I. during the 1960's. In those days co-operation was the key attitude between chemical providers and end users and samples and information were freely exchanged and trial work carried out co-operatively. How things have changed!

Peter has done an enormous amount of important weed research and one field day for the Weeds Society at his Qualturf Farm at Richmond examined numerous interactions of herbicides with special reference to Nut grass control.

Nut grass was a huge problem for the turf industry and there were no specific herbicides for its control as there are today.

Society News

What started out as a standard treatment to rid a paddock of couch grass (*C.dactylon*) turned into a saga of finding a control for nut grass.

The standard treatment for couch elimination was 2-2.D.P.A. Two treatments 14 days apart followed by Paraquat. Glyphosate had just come into the market place. The observation that after the two treatments of 2-2.D.P.A. that the nut grass which was also prolific in the paddock looked slightly limp and listless, led to digging up some nuts for observation and when they were cracked open instead of being their usual milky self, they were dry and yellowing.

The decision was made to use Glyphosate as a replacement for Paraquat and the result, 100% elimination of the nut grass and the couch.

This was a stunning success because prior to this Methyl Bromide fumigation was the only real treatment for nut grass.

So next Spring, straight into a large programme of nut grass control – Result 100% failure. Another lesson learned, the timing of the treatments – late Summer, early Autumn when the nuts are translocating reserves to storage organs at full tilt was crucial to success.

Not too long after that Semptra (Halsulfuron-methyl) came into the market place and 2-2.D.P.A. became unavailable and so this piece of work became history.

Peter's work with Siduron [1-(2-methyl cyclohexyl)-3-phenylurea] for control of C4 grasses (e.g. couch and kikuyu) in C3 grasses such as Bent was ground breaking. That work was continued using the picolinic acid herbicides and is still subject of ongoing experimentation.

Peter is currently engaged with co-operative work with Don Loch (ex D.P.I. Q'ld) in re-evaluating the fops and dims groups of herbicides for selective tolerance between grass varieties. Control of grasses within grasses is a major problem in commercial turf farming.

A major weakness of many turf grass breeding programmes is that there is no evaluation for herbicide tolerance in breeding lines and this has resulted in many releases which have poor tolerances to commonly used turf herbicides such as Dicamba. This is another area of work where without using G.M. technology you can find resistance naturally within many turf grass gene pools, which allows for breeding of lines where tolerance differences between weed grasses and the desired variety can be exploited

Graham Gregory Award



Since its inception in 1993, the Graham Gregory Award has been the horticulture industry's most prestigious accolade, recognising outstanding achievements from all sections in horticulture throughout the supply chain.

The award is named after the late Graham Gregory AO who was the first chairman of Horticulture Australia Limited. Throughout his life, Graham made an exceptional contribution to research and development in Australia's wine and horticultural industries

Society News

Tony Cook - new committee member



Tony has 20 years experience in weed research. His career began after graduating in 1988 with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from Sydney University. Initially based in Glen Innes in 1989, his roles as a Technical Officer, NSW Agriculture, was to conduct applied research into cropping and pastures weeds in northern NSW. He undertook a Masters of Rural Science degree at UNE in 1992. As a consequence of this Masters thesis, he developed the technique for controlling wild oats, by preventing seed production in wheat crops.

In 1995 he was transferred to Tamworth and now his roles include developing effective integrated weed management of pasture, cropping and environmental weeds. He has been responsible for many technical aspects of projects. Some of the outcomes from these projects include the improved control of alligator weed, using wiper technology to control broadleaf weeds in crops and the prevention/management of herbicide resistant weeds.

Phil Blackmore is our other new committee member and he will introduce himself in the # 51 Winter newsletter.

From the Editor

Apologies to all our members and sponsors on the lateness of this newsletter and the reporting of the AGM and Annual Dinner.

These things happen and Hanwen Wu, new Assistant Editor, and myself, Lawrie Greenup, the old editor who needed a break and was talked into returning, will ensure you receive your Winter, Spring & Summer issues during 2010.

We want material, preferably short & interesting articles with good quality images.

What do we want?

Local & regional news about people & events, new emerging weed species, weed management issues, weed research summaries, book reviews and anything to do with weeds.

Good quality images suitable for reproduction are always needed and the source will be acknowledged. Images, except for those on the front cover, will be reproduced in black and white in the newsletter. However, after twelve months the full newsletter will be posted on our website and the all images will be in colour.

Material submission dates:

51 Winter 30 June 2010

52 Spring 30 September 2010

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The opinions expressed in "A Good Weed" by contributors are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee of The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc.

Society News - AGM & Annual Dinner

President's Report 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee with whom I have had the pleasure to work with this year, and also thank everyone in attendance at this meeting for being able to make the commitment to be here.



The past year has been very productive for the Society, with positive outcomes attained across a wide range of activities.

The new website for the Society has been completed and provides a good point of access for members and the general public alike. In a similar vein, the Society has commenced using

email as a means of maintaining contact with, and information to, the membership.

The past year has seen the Society involved in several awards. Richard Banbury received the Society Undergraduate Award for his outstanding performance in weeds related undergraduate studies. Paula Bosse was the inaugural recipient of the Stephenson Award at the Biennial NSW Weeds Conference held in Narrabri. This award, together with the partner

Buerckner Award, is a tangible outcome of increasing collaboration between the Society and the Weeds Officers Association.

The Society hosted two successful seminars and continued to produce a high quality newsletter throughout the least year. Lawrie Greenup has held the position of editor for a number of years, and his intention to not continue in the role next year will leave not only a large hole to be filled, but also a very high standard to be maintained. Thank you, Lawrie, for your contribution to the Society.

Whilst discussing publications, it is pertinent to mention that the Society has also agreed this year to provide an interest free loan to assist with printing costs for a new book by Ros Sheppard (*Is That Plant Poisonous?*). Support of initiatives such as this is an excellent way to ensure the broader community have access to well researched and written material on weeds.

It is with a great deal of optimism for the continued progress of the Society that I have received advice that a number of new candidates may be nominating for positions within the executive. I believe this augurs well for the Society to have a blend of new and continuing members involved in the management of the Society. I look forward to working with other Society members to achieve this goal.

Rex Stanton
President

Election of Office Bearers, Committee & Treasurer's Report

The following were elected:-

- Office Bearers - President Rex Stanton; Vice-president – Stephen Johnson; Secretary – Alan Murphy; Treasurer – Jim Swain; Public Officer – Michael Barrett.
- Committee – W. Felton [Tamworth]; L Greenup [Westleigh]; Brigitte Verbeck [Tamworth]; Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]

The Treasurer, Jim Swain, presented the audited financial report which was accepted by the meeting

Society News - AGM & Annual Dinner

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was again held at Pennant Hills Golf Club following the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26 November.

A convivial, informal evening, with excellent fare and service, was enjoyed by twelve members and some wives and partners.

Graham Drew, a long-time member from Cowra, and his wife Leigh, joined many stalwarts such as John and Etta Toth in happy reminiscences. Rex Stanton wished all present the compliments of the season, and stressed the importance of this event in the life of the Society.

Also most welcome were Robin Buchanan, who has just published a recent book on Bush Regeneration, and Darren Waterson, who is now at Flemington Markets, but still retains a great interest in weeds and those afflicted by this activity.

An opportunity for members, and particularly wives and partners, to meet socially at this time of year has been a highlight of the Society since its inception over 25 years ago. The success of this event augurs well for the future well-being of the Society

Thanks, Mike Barrett, for organising another excellent Society dinner.



Rex Stanton
President & CAWS delegate



Alan Murphy
Secretary



Jim Swain
Treasurer



Mike Barrett
Public Officer



Warwick Felton
Committee & CAWS delegate



Birgitte Verbeck
Committee



Lawrie Greenup
Editor & Committee



Hanwen Wu
Asst. Editor & Committee



Tony Cook
Committee

Epping Seminar

TURF HERBICIDES

Dr Henk Smith

Technical Manager Lawn & garden

Syngenta Crop Protection Australia

A common goal shared by most turfgrass managers is to establish and maintain vigorous, high quality, attractive turf. Limiting the deleterious effects of weeds and promoting desirable growth through proper irrigation, fertilisation, mowing and cultural practices are necessary components of a balanced turfgrass management program. Weeds are the major pests on many turfgrass sites. Weeds compete with turfgrasses for growing space, sunlight, soil moisture and plant nutrients. Additionally, weeds detract from the natural beauty of turfgrasses due to differences in colour, size, shape and growth habit. Hence, weed control is necessary on most high quality turf areas.

Weed management almost always come down to a sound program involving;

1. correct weed identification
2. prevention of weed introduction
3. optimal desirable turf management and agronomic practices
4. proper selection and application of a herbicide program

Herbicides for use in turfgrass could be a confusing propositions, as a myriad of brand names have been registered for use in turf (236 from 1 Jan 2003 to date),

while all are based on only 24 active ingredients. The choice of herbicide thus becomes important when considering a purchase for a specific weed control outcome.

The most important issue for turf managers when using herbicides is turf safety. Selective herbicides therefore dominate, but care should be taken to understand the impact of using even these selective herbicides in a highly manage turf sward. As an example we can look at sulfonylureas; currently there are four (4) registered for turf use in Australia – trifloxysulfuron (Monument Liquid Turf Herbicide – Syngenta), iodosulfuron (Destiny Selective Turf Herbicide – Bayer), halosulfuron (NutBuster Herbicide – agVantage) and rimsulfuron (Turf Culture Coliseum Herbicide). Although these four all share the same mode of action, the range of weeds they control as well as their relative safety to desired turf species differ vastly (see table below). Some degree of forethought and consultation is thus needed when planning to include herbicides as part of your complete weed management strategy.

	Broadleaf Weeds	Sedges	Grasses	Safe to use
trifloxysulfuron	Several	Nutgrass Mullumbimby couch	Poa annua, ryegrass & kikuyu	Couch
iodosulfuron	Clover Bindii	No	Ryegrass	Couch, kikuyu & buffalo
halosulfuron	No	Nutgrass Mullumbimby couch	No	Warm & cool season grasses
rimsulfuron	No	No	Poa annua Ryegrass	Couch & Sir Walter Buffalo

Epping Seminar

INTERGRATING HERBICIDE MANAGEMENT FOR LANTANA A DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR LAND MANAGERS

Kym Johnson
National Lantana Coordinator
Biosecurity Queensland



Summary

The Lantana Weeds of National Significance Program has developed a new best practice Decision Support Tool (DST) to assist land managers in the effective and efficient integration of herbicide management with other control techniques. This electronic resource is

built on information gathered from three years of adaptive management trials at 11 sites throughout the east coast distribution of *Lantana camara*.

Experimental sites included a range of conservation and primary production areas with differing situational and climatic conditions to gain a broad picture of the response of lantana to management actions. The final resource enables land managers to tailor three to four year integrated management sequences to their properties; and includes interactive calculators to provide realistic predictions of management program cost and expected efficacy.

Introduction

Lantana camara, one of Australia's 20 Weeds of National Significance, has a distribution that covers more than four million hectares of Queensland and New South Wales' most productive and environmentally significant regions. Recent impact assessments indicate that it currently costs the Australian grazing sector in excess of \$121 million (05/06 values) in lost production and management costs on an annual basis (AEC group, 2007a). This has significant flow on impacts to the Australian economy as well as a suite of social implications for the producers involved. In addition, lantana has serious impacts on a diversity of environmental systems; and

1322 native plant species and 158 animal species have been listed as negatively affected by lantana invasion (National Lantana Management Group, 2009).

Prescribed integrated control strategies are seen as an important component of best practice weed control (Carter *et al.* 2006). However, 2003 and 2006 lantana stakeholder surveys (AEC group, 2007b) indicated that many land managers were unsure of how to integrate the wide array of control options available and management effectiveness was suffering as a consequence. In June 2006, funding was provided through the Federal Government's Defeating the Weed Menace Program for a three year project to develop the DST discussed in this paper.

Methods

Adaptive management trials were conducted at 11 sites in Queensland (Yarraman, Clairview, Ingham, Glen Ruth Station and Atherton) and New South Wales (Grafton, Ballina, Border Rangers NP, Berry, Gloucester and Wollongong) to identify suitable integrated management sequences under a variety of environmental and management situations.

Paired treatment and control plots were established using 10 x 10 m quadrats at each of the management sites. Measurements of lantana density, grass coverage, native plant species numbers and density, bare ground and other weed invasion were taken on a 4-6 monthly basis. Photo monitoring points were also established to provide visual records of the sites and plant condition both before and after treatment rounds.

Decisions on the most appropriate management actions for the trial sites were made through regular expert and stakeholder consultation and on the basis of data collected from the previous management action.

Where possible, local contractors or the land managers themselves were employed to undertake management activities. This ensured the standard of management

Epping Seminar

was equivalent to 'real-life' scenarios and provided a realistic representation of expected management costs and outcomes. Records of cost and time invested in control were also taken.

Results and Discussion

A Lantana Best Practice Manual has been developed for use in conjunction with the DST. This resource provides background information on management techniques and environmental variables that impact on control effectiveness. It also includes planning tools to assist in the development of a Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP) which is seen as critical to the establishment of clear and realistic management goals.

Once a PPMP has been developed, the land manager will have identified: (i) the extent and distribution of lantana infestations on their property; (ii) the highest priority management areas; (iii) timeframes for undertaking management activities; and (iv) desired outcomes. This basic information is vital for successful use of the DST.

The effectiveness of the Lantana DST hinges on its ability to represent a complex set of parameters in a manner that is user friendly and provides an accurate management scenario for the end user. From the data collected and extensive consultation via stakeholder workshops, it was determined that three primary variables could be used to determine suitable and cost effective control sequences. These are:

1. *access to the management site* – this influences the type of equipment that can be used and is defined by terrain, vegetation cover, geographical and infrastructure barriers;
2. *density of the infestation* – this influences the type of management technique that is feasible and cost effective; and
3. *size of the management area* – the scale of infestation will determine the suitability of broad scale treatments such as fire, large machinery of aerial spraying. Significant economy of scale savings may be achieved through these techniques and must be factored into the final calculations.

The DST guides the user through a series of questions that lead to a number of comparable (in terms of cost

and effectiveness) management sequences. Secondary variables including management technique preference, control calendars and availability of equipment can then be used to determine the most appropriate sequence of control.

Incorporating interactive calculators to assess the cost of control and comparative efficacy of different management scenarios, this tool promises to provide greater surety to land managers struggling with the issue of integrated control.

Free copies of the Lantana Best Practice Manual and Decision Support Tool can be ordered from the National Lantana Coordinator at LantanaWoNS@deedi.qld.gov.au.

References

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- Carter, M. Clark, A. and van Oosterhout, E. (2006). Developing best practice manuals for Weeds of National Significance. *Proceedings of the 15th Australian Weeds Conference*, eds C. Preston, J.H. Watts and N.D. Crossman, pp. 48-51. Weed Mgt Society of SA, Adelaide.
- National Lantana Management Group (2009). *Draft plan to protect environmental assets from lantana*, Brisbane.

2nd SA WEEDS CONFERENCE

The WMSSA invites everyone with an interest in weed management to the 2ndSAWC, which will be held at the Plant Research Centre, SARDI, Waite Campus, Adelaide, 18-19 May, 2010.

Following on from the popular 1st SAWC in October 2008, the WMSSA looks forward to your participation at the 2nd SAWC. The WMSSA aims to cater for all aspects of weed management in South Australia and the conference topics cover a wide range of subjects.

Contact: email shauna.potter@sa.gov.au

Two New Naturalisation Records

Chinese holly grape *Mahonia tomariifolia*



Image: Ian turnbull

The concern of a local landholder led to the discovery of at least 200 adult and seedling plants of *Mahonia lomariifolia* (Chinese holly grape) in wet sclerophyll forest west of Dorrigo in spring 2009.

The infestation was reported to Ian Turnbull, Bellingen Shire Council. Ian later delimited the extent of the species, conducted a weed risk assessment and is investigating management options for this species.

Uncommon in the nursery trade in Australia, the species is a new record for both New South Wales and Australia.

This evergreen shrub produces a large number of berries

It is claimed by the supplier in Monbulk, Victoria that the species has not naturalised in that state despite a long history of cultivation.

The species has naturalised in New Zealand and appears to naturalise in cooler and wetter areas.

Of the Berberidaceae family, the species is related to Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) a common bird dispersed invader on the central and southern tablelands of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. That species is known to occur in yellow box/Blakely's red gum woodland around Canberra and in snow gum woodland around Jindabyne.

Ian, in collaboration with others has been responsible for the detection of other new weed species such as the kidneyleaf mudplantain, *Heteranthera reniformis* and a second outbreak of Hill raspberry, *Rubus niveus*, in the north coast area.

Source: Ian Turnbull, Bellingen Shire Council.

Dyer's broom/Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* var. *ovata*



Neil Boyd was investigating a yellow flowering broom looking plant, in woodland near Orange, which was identified as Dyer's broom or Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* var. *ovata*.

This is the first record of this species being naturalised in New South Wales.

The discovery made near the Pinnacle reserve, south west of Orange, in February 2010. Gorse, *Ulex europaeus* and tree lucerne, are also known to occur in the area

Neil was recently successful in identifying an ornamental aquatic species, salvinia *Salvinia molesta*, in a Bourke motel pond. Salvinia is one of twenty Weeds of National Significance.

Source: Neil Boyd, Orange City Council

Image: courtesy Domesticus malleotus

Hairy Panic or Witchgrass?

Witchgrass (*Panicum capillare*)

Since the early 1990s summer panic grasses have increased dramatically over much of southern NSW. Most of this was thought to be hairy panic (*Panicum effusum*), a native perennial grass. While it is a perennial plant, it is assumed to be persisting in the cropping zone as an annual plant due to the large amount of seed it can set. It is not uncommon for large collections of wind blown seed heads to block roads and engulf houses or sheds.

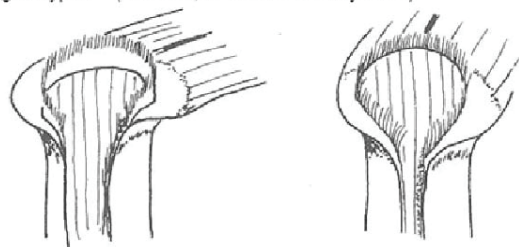
Closer examination of plant samples collected at Wagga, assumed to be hairy panic, are in fact witchgrass (*Panicum capillare*), an introduced annual weed. This would more easily explain its persistence and habit in drier environments. Both witchgrass and hairy panic populations have previously been recorded in the area, but it is likely that many of the plants now called hairy panic are actually witchgrass.

Identification

Both of these grasses are very similar in appearance and can only be separated by close examination. The leaves of both grasses are quite hairy but witchgrass leaves (5mm -18mm) are generally wider than hairy panic (2mm – 6mm) and are often wavy along the edge.

A key distinguishing feature between the two is the ligule. The ligule of hairy panic is a row of cilia (hair-like structures) whereas the ligule of witchgrass is membranous at the base and ciliate above (Wheeler, Jacobs and Whalley 2002).

Ligule types (Wheeler, Jacobs & Whalley 2002)



membranous
rim with hairs

Witchgrass

rim of
hairs

Hairy Panic

Management Implications

Young actively growing witchgrass can be palatable to livestock, potentially providing summer feed. However, there have been a number of recorded instances of photosensitisation of livestock attributed to hairy panic that may in fact have been witchgrass. Photosensitisation is known to occur with hairy panic but it is also true of several other panics, so graze witchgrass with caution.

Witchgrass is a confirmed host for Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus (Coutts et al 2008) and should be considered when developing a management plan for the virus.

References:

Wheeler DJB, Jacobs SWL, Whalley RDB (2002), Grasses of New South Wales, third edition, University of New England.

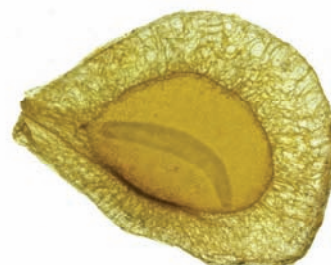
Coutts BA, Strickland GR, Kehoe MA, Severtson DL, Jones RAC (2008) The epidemiology of *Wheat streak mosaic virus* in Australia: case histories, gradients, mite vectors and alternative hosts, Australian Journal of Agricultural Research, 59,844-853.

Nigel Phillips

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Taiwan or Formosan lily seed *Lilium formosan*
Image: Lawrie Greenup

Legislative Issues

Systematic Spray Drift Reviews Reconsideration of Approvals and Registrations Related to Products Containing MCPA and their Labels

The APVMA is reconsidering all registrations of all products containing MCPA and the approvals of all labels associated with those products.

2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid, commonly known as MCPA, is a phenoxy compound used as a post-emergence herbicide in agriculture and the home garden. It is used for the selective control of annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in an extensive range of crops and non-cropping situations. A large number of products containing MCPA, either as the only active constituent or together with other active constituents, is currently registered for use in Australia for weed control.

The basis of the reconsideration of the products containing the active constituent MCPA is whether or not the continued use of, or any dealing with, products in accordance with the recommendations for its use or for such a dealing that the APVMA has approved would not be likely to have an unintended effect that is harmful to animals, plants or things or to the environment; and that the labels for products containing MCPA may not contain adequate instructions and warning statements.

The scope of this reconsideration will consider the environmental aspects of product registrations and label approvals for MCPA, limiting it to the APVMA's concern about the potential risk of non-target damage that spray drift of such products can cause.

The APVMA has conducted spray drift modelling and risk analysis for products containing MCPA. The assessment showed that spray drift of MCPA may pose risks to aquatic organisms, non-target terrestrial vegetation and neighbouring crops.

Also it appears that the labels for products containing MCPA may not comply with the prescribed requirements under paragraph 14(3)(d) and contain the adequate instructions relating to the matters referred to in paragraph 14(3)(g) of the Agvet Codes.

Thus it is necessary to place all products containing MCPA and their labels under reconsideration to enable further assessment of the products for spray drift risks and to make label amendments if necessary to mitigate spray drift risks.

The APVMA will consider whether product labels carry adequate instructions and warning statements. The requirements for product labels are that the label contains adequate instructions. Such instructions include:

- the circumstances in which the product should be used;
- how the product should be used;
- the times when the product should be used;
- the frequency of the use of the product;
- any other matter prescribed by the regulations.

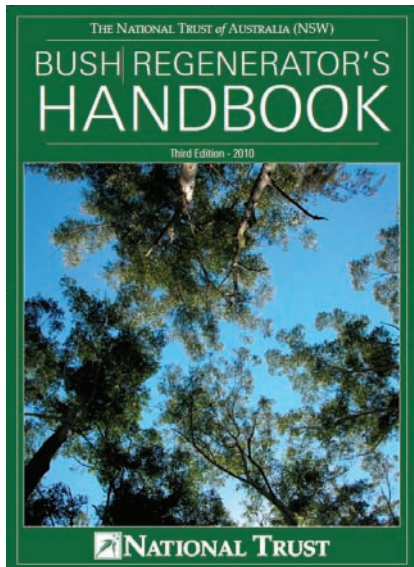
All product registrations and label approvals are listed on the APVMA's website <http://www.apvma.gov.au>

Submissions specifically addressing the areas of concern noted in the scope document must be in writing and reach the APVMA by **28 May 2010**,

Contact:-
Subbu Putcha
Senior Chemical Reviewer Chemical Review
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines
Authority
PO Box 6182 KINGSTON ACT 2604

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Book Review



The third edition of The National Trust of Australia (NSW) Bush Regenerator's Handbook will be released mid-May 2010. The edition was revised to include updated details of occupational health and safety and environmental legislative requirements, and a section

on workplace safety has been introduced. The handbook includes information on weeds of national significance and is now more relevant to broader Australia.

Printed on recycled paper, this edition contains all the drawings of weed control methods included in the previous edition that are sought after by so many practitioners, particularly volunteer groups. The new layout is now enhanced with colour photographs. The printing of the handbook has been supported by Canon Australia.

The Bush Regenerator's Handbook will be released in mid-May 2010 and advertised on the National Trust's website www.nationaltrust.com.au. Price has not been established at this date.


Please contact the National Trust on (02) 9258 0176 or Email: bms@nationaltrust.com.au for enquiries or to order copies.

(60-page, A4 size plastic laminated card bound handbook in a similar format to the 2nd edition)

Agapanthus Police active in Sydney Suburb

Looking after Westleigh's bush

How you can help – from your own back (or front) yard.

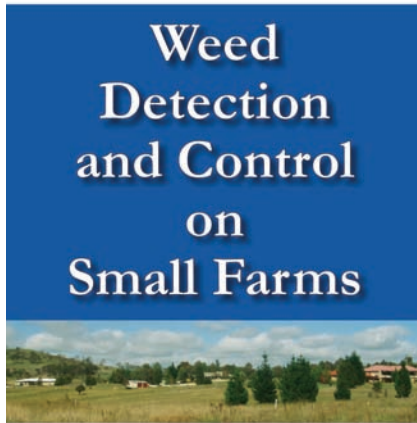




In February: Now that the Agapanthus have finished flowering, the seed heads are ripening. Yes, they are attractive, but once they open and release their hundreds of seeds, these can and do invade the bush – including by washing down the stormwater drains.

So will you please help by cutting off the seedheads before the seeds get a chance to drop. Simply drop them into your green bin and the job is done. **YOU HAVE PROTECTED OUR BUSH FROM YOUR OWN BACK/FRONT YARD.**

This message was posted on the notice board at the Westleigh shopping centre, probably by one of the local bush regenerators. The number of properties which had removed the seed heads has increased considerably since last year.

Book Review



A Guide for Owners

Brian Sindel & Michael Coleman

This booklet seeks to describe 'best practice' principles for detecting and controlling weeds on Australian farms, most appropriate to lifestyle or hobby farm owners.

The booklet discusses the importance of controlling weeds, the principles of weed detection (where and when to look for weeds on the farm, how to identify an unknown plant and what to do when a new weed outbreak is found), weed control responsibilities and methods appropriate to small farm owners, guidelines for responsible herbicide use and accreditation, and available weed control assistance.

Copies of the booklet are available free of charge to weeds professionals and small farm owners, while stocks last. Booklets will be distributed on a 'first-come first-served' basis. If you have an extension role with hobby or small farm owners, we encourage you to distribute copies of this booklet as you are able as a means of extending the findings of this research.

If you would like to receive one or more copies of the booklet in the post, please email

mcolema8@une.edu.au or

bsindel@une.edu.au

indicating your postal address details and the number of booklets you would like to receive.

Alternatively, you may phone Michael Coleman (02 6773 3616) or Brian Sindel (02 6773 3747).

Review by Michael Barrett

This is a well constructed, comprehensive and easy to use publication. It is particularly relevant to the small holder and contains good references and sources for further information.

The '3D' approach to managing weeds is a bit abstruse, but does encapsulate the importance of long term planning using integrated control methods.

It is surprising that this booklet does mention not one weed species. This could have been achieved by captions to some of the illustrations, such as serrated tussock. In addition a list of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) as an Appendix would create interest and a focus for discussion and follow up.

Nevertheless this booklet deserves to be made widely available to small farmers as it contains much valuable and practical advice



What's On?

Queensland

3rd Queensland Pest Animal Symposium
'Managing pest animal impacts - prevention, containment and monitoring.'

Gladstone Entertainment Centre, Gladstone
3 - 5 August 2010

<http://www.pestanimalsymposium.com.au/>

South Australia

2nd SA Weeds Conference (2nd SAWC)

WMSSA invites everyone with an interest in weed management to the 2nd SAWC. The conference aims to cater for all aspects of weed management in SA. It is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with your SA weed colleagues and make new acquaintances.

Plant Research Centre, Waite Campus
18 & 19 May 2010.

Contact: email shauna.potter@sa.gov.au

New Zealand

NZPPS Conference 2010
The New Zealand Plant Protection Society Inc. and The Council of Australasian Weed Societies Inc. invite you to the **17th Australasian Weeds Conference.**

'New Frontiers in New Zealand'

Christchurch, New Zealand
26 - 30 September 2010

<http://www.17awc.org/index.php>



Ochna seedling, *Ochna serrulata*
Image Lawrie Greenup

If unable to deliver return to:

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The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 438
Wahroonga NSW 2076**

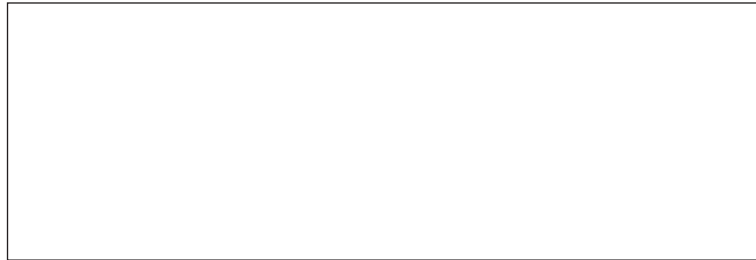
A Good Weed

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