

B9. Herbicide Application in Natural Areas

Effective weed control via herbicide application should take into account several key factors:

- Timing (know the most effective time in the weed's life cycle to kill it effectively);
- Weather conditions (avoid wind and rain);
- Correct identification of target weed species (off-target natives may have a similar appearance to target weed/s). Accurate native and weed species identification (especially grass and herbaceous species) is vitally important. A huge factor in success is not killing off-target species;
- Training for herbicide application certification is available through TAFE;
- Herbicides must be used in accordance with the label. The only herbicide registered for use in WA bushland situations is *Fusilade Forte* (for control of Veldt grass). The use of other herbicides is only deemed legal when the herbicide is used in adherence to the conditions on the Australian Pesticides and Medicines Authority (APVMA), off-label permit PER9655, for the use of selected herbicides on environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests, wetlands, roadsides and industrial areas (see below for details).
- Investigate up to date records for herbicide application rates and ensure that new herbicides or new versions of commonly used herbicides are mixed at the correct rate for use in natural areas;
- Appropriate safety gear should be worn during mixing and application. Spray equipment and gear should be cleaned and maintained for the duration of use; and
- Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS) sheets should be obtained and kept on file. A duplicate copy must be provided for onsite reference by herbicide application personnel.

Further Information

More information on herbicide application is available in Chapter 8 of 'Bushland Weeds' (Brown et al, 2002) which covers herbicide use in bushland. Issues covered include:

- Duty of care;
- Personal care;
- Training;
- Legislation;
- Bushland care;
- Using contractors; and
- Types of herbicide

Personnel using herbicides in public areas have a duty of care to the environment, the general public and themselves. For further explanation of this section of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* visit:

http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/Content/Safety_Topics/Hazardous_substances/Additional_resources/Safety_priorities_for_working_.html

The following references may also be useful:

- 'Herbiguide'; a comprehensive computer-based guide to herbicide application for many weed species of the region - available for purchase from:
<http://www.herbiguide.net/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>
- Brown, K and Brooks, C (2002) *Bushland Weeds; a practical guide to their management* ; is now out of print but is available for download on the Environmental Weeds Action Network website:
<http://www.environmentalweedsactionnetwork.org.au/images/pdf/bushlandweedsbook.pdf>
- Moore, J. and Wheeler, J. (2008) *Southern Weeds and their Control*, DAFWA, South Perth; provides easy identification of common weeds and methods of control using common cultural biological and herbicidal control techniques.
- Pest Genie: www.pestgenie.com.au . This website provides information about labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) information.
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) *Permit 9655*: Off label permit for use of selected herbicides on environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests, wetlands, roadsides, industrial areas:
<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER9655.PDF>