

Fact Sheet

Hygiene & Integrated Weed Management



Tom's Creek
Landcare

Key Practices

Prevention and Hygiene

Preventing weed spread via contaminated machinery, fodder, livestock, or neighbouring properties and roads.

Tactical Management

Improving overall land management practices and reducing unnecessary soil disturbance.

Removal and Control

Using physical and chemical removal options that are specific to the weed and your land type.

Competition

Establishing and maintaining vigorous, competitive ground cover which is seasonally competitive to key weeds.

Overview

Integrated Weed Management recognises that no single control measure works alone. By combining strict hygiene practices, with pasture management, and physical and chemical control options, landholders can reduce the opportunity for weeds to spread.

Successful weed management requires a long-term strategy with high vigilance and sustained effort. Total eradication is often unrealistic. For broad infestations of highly competitive weeds, the most achievable goal is to deplete the population to a level where it can be easily controlled.

Cultural Management



Pasture competition

Maintain year-round ground cover and encourage competitive species to mimic and outcompete the weeds growth habit.



Soil fertility

Improved nutrients (fertiliser/urea) support desirable species, allowing them to outcompete new weed seedlings.



Grazing management

Rotational grazing allows desirable plants to recover to avoid overgrazing as weeds favour bare patches to germinate.



Biosecurity

Implement farm biosecurity measures, including cleaning vehicles and machinery, and establishing quarantine zones.



Pasture renovation

Complete pasture renovation provides the fastest successful outcome for moderate to widespread infestations.

Physical Management



Hand pulling & hoeing

Rapid and effective for single plants and ensures the root system is removed. Best done before plants flower and set seed.



Seed head removal

Use secateurs to remove and bag seed heads before uprooting the plant to reduce seed spread across the property.



Solarisation

Bagged seeds or plants can be "cooked" in the sun. For maximum efficacy, use sealed black plastic bags for 4-8 weeks.



Mowing/slashing

While it can improve palatability for intensive grazing, it is not a control method and carries a high risk of spreading seeds.



Burning

Fire can remove biomass and neutralise seeds in the upper soil profile, or is used to stimulate growth for chemical management.

Chemical Management



Spot spraying

Most effective on individual plants, margins, or small infestations. Use a coloured dye to avoid double-treating or missing plants.



Wick wiping

Blanket treatment by wiping herbicide onto tall weeds that sit above desirable pasture. Requires a height difference.



Boom spraying

Blanket treatment best for large, dense infestations. Must be accompanied by pasture renovation and oversowing.



Drone spraying

While more expensive than traditional methods, it does provide the ability for accurate pre-spray infestation mapping.

Management Approach

Effective weed management requires a transition from reactive spraying to a proactive Integrated Weed Management strategy. For weeds that are now widespread in the local area, the primary preventative objective is to maintain a dense, competitive pasture and good year-round ground cover.

Management of land with mature or dense plants must combine the strategic removal of adult plants with long-term land management changes. This includes using targeted herbicide or physical treatments to eliminate existing plants, followed immediately by improvements to soil fertility and over-sowing with appropriate, competitive pastures.

Hygiene Checklist

Implementing best practice hygiene measures is the most effective way to prevent regional spread.

Identify weeds that are an infestation risk to the area.
Identify and map existing infestations.
Clean vehicles and machinery on entry and exit.
Check undercarriage, blades, and tyres for visible plants.
Monitor entry points including roadsides & waterways.
Limit soil disturbance and re-establish ground cover.

Management Methods

Land use	Farmland			Conservation areas and nature reserves		Roadsides and utility easements	Urban
Infestation type	Introduced degraded pastures	Introduce perennial pastures	Native pastures	Degraded areas	High value areas	All area types	
Newly established	Manual removal or spot spray	Manual removal		Manual removal		Manual removal or spot spray	
Scattered plants	Manual removal and solarisation or spot spray			Manual removal and solarisation or spot spray.		Spot spray	
Small patches	Boom spray and full pasture renovation including fertiliser and oversowing	Spot spray or boom spray	Spot spray	Spot spray		Spot spray	Spot spray or mulch
Medium density		Boom spray and fertiliser to improve ground cover	Boom spray and improve biodiversity or agroforestry	Spot spray	Biodiversity restoration to choke out	Spot or boom spray	Boom spray and improve ground cover or fertilise
Severe infestation				Biodiversity restoration		Boom spray	

