

USE OF HEXAZINONE IN SLASH PINE (*PINUS ELLIOTTII*)
AND CARIBBEAN PINE (*P. CARIBAEA*)

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Hexazinone has been evaluated for broad spectrum weed control in slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and caribbean pine (*P. caribaea*) in southern Queensland.

Trials carried out pre- and post-planting showed that hexazinone gave a high level of weed control under high and low rainfall conditions. Hexazinone at 1.5 to 3.0 kg ha⁻¹ applied one, two and three months pre-planting resulted in better plant establishment of slash pine than when similar rates were applied one week before planting. Mortality and growth suppression occurred in caribbean pine.

Applications of 0.75 to 1.0 kg ha⁻¹ one to four months after planting gave acceptable weed control during the establishment period with tolerance of slash pine being adequate. Tolerance of caribbean pine requires further investigation.

Inter line solid stream applications of hexazinone (i.e. applying the herbicide in narrow bands parallel to and 0.75 to 1.5 m from the row) for the control of woody weeds in slash pine have given effective control of a range of woody weeds present, with the optimum rate being 2.5 kg ha⁻¹. Tolerance of one year old slash pine is acceptable whereas older trees are less tolerant.

Further work is required to determine tolerance of caribbean pine, soil persistence of hexazinone and tree root development in year two after application. Benefits of this technique include effective control of a range of woody weeds, ease of application and operator safety.