SECOND ROTATION VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN PINUS PLANTATIONS OF SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

Mark Podberscek

1 Queensland Forestry Research Institute, MS 483 Fraser Rd, Gympie 4570, QLD

Vegetation management is evolving rapidly in the south-east Queensland exotic pine estate. This is due both to changes in site preparation and to weed spectra.

New environmental sustainability guidelines have resulted in a significant reduction in mechanical disturbance of sites, and a cessation of the use of fire at establishment. Consequently, weed control now relies more heavily on herbicide use.

Furthermore, the move to second rotation sites has seen changes in the weed spectrum from that traditionally encountered. Extreme establishment pressure now comes from new and aggressive invading grasses, particularly perennial species such as *Imperata cylindrica* and *Paspalum* spp. If such grasses are not controlled at establishment, they may be extremely competitive and have a severe impact on early *Pinus* growth.

This poster presents the results of field trials conducted by the Queensland Forestry Research Institute to investigate rate and timing of herbicide application, for both new and existing products.