

White weeping broom (*Retama raetam*) control on Yorke Peninsula

Ken Rudd

Regional Authorised Officer, Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board
51 Taylor Street, Kadina SA 5554
(ken.rudd@sa.gov.au)

INTRODUCTION

White weeping broom is listed on the Australian National Environment Alert Species List which is designed for weed species that represent a threat to biodiversity values but are in the early stages of invasion.

In the 1990's White weeping broom was found growing amongst an area of revegetation at Wallaroo Mines at Kadina. The area is an old Copper mining site and the plant was most likely introduced by illegal dumping of garden waste.

Over the next few years more outbreaks appeared across Yorke Peninsula, mainly on Crown Land and Coastal Reserves.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

There are no registered chemicals for its control, so in 2007, the Board applied to the Native Vegetation Council of South Australia for a \$3150.00 grant. The project was approved and work commenced in July 2007. The trials were set up under the supervision of Dr. John Virtue (Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation) and Jason Emms (South Australian Research and Development Institute).

Two trial sites were selected at Wallaroo Mines and Port Victoria, and three methods of control were trialed, cut/swab, spot spray and physical removal. The trial first treatment was carried out in late winter and the second treatment carried out in late summer.

The chemicals used for spot spray treatments were glyphosate + pulse, metsulfuron methyl, glyphosate + metsulfuron methyl + pulse and triclopyr.

Cut / swab treatments were carried out using glyphosate, triclopyr and picloram.

Control plots were untreated, cut only and physical removal.

These trials showed that winter treatment by cut/swab was the best option.

RESULTS

A final report titled 'Finding an Effective Method for Control of White Weeping Broom' has been written up on the project by Dr. Jason Emms (SARDI) and Dr. John Virtue (Biosecurity SA) and is available for distribution at this Conference.

In 2011 the NRM Board allocated \$50,000.00 for control work to be carried out across Yorke Peninsula

and this resulted in 90% of the plants being treated. We treated all the isolated outbreaks around the Yorke Peninsula and then the core infestation in Wallaroo Mines. There was one small outbreak on Aboriginal Lands at Point Pearce that has not yet been treated. When the funding ran out we had treated about 50% of the core infestation.

The NRM Yorke Peninsula Group has allocated \$13,000.00 for follow up work and for the continuation of the treatment in 2011/2012. This work commenced on May the 14th. 2012, with all sites treated for re-growth and then a continuation of the control work at Wallaroo Mines.

A lot of the new growth was from seed germination, so the seedlings were sprayed with glyphosate + pulse. There was very few of the previously treated plants that showed any signs of regrowth.

Table 1. Treatments.

1	Untreated control	
2	Cut only	
3	Cut and swab	360g/L glyphosate product, at 1L per 1L water
4	Cut and swab	Garlon 600 Herbicide, at 100ml per 3L diesel
5	Cut and swab	Vigilant Herbicide Gel 43g/kg picloram as the potassium salt, at label rate
6	Spot spray whole plants glyphosate	360g/L glyphosate product, at 1L per 100L water + Pulse penetrant
7	Spot spray whole plants metsulfuron methyl	Brushhoff 600g/L metsulfuron methyl, at 15g per 100L water + organosilicone penetrant - Pulse
8	Spot spray whole plants glyphosate + metsulfuron methyl	360g/L glyphosate product + 600g/L metsulfuron methyl product, at 1L + 3g per 100L water + penetrant - Pulse
9	Spot spray whole plants triclopyr	Garlon 600 Herbicide, at 170ml per 100L water
10	Physical removal	

With the project having a high priority, we are confident of future funding to continue this work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Deb Agnew, Ken Rudd & Rob Lincoln (Northern & Yorke NRM Board). Dr. John Virtue (Biosecurity SA).
Dr. Jason Emms (SARDI).