

Joshua Noble profile



About ME

I have always been interested in the environment since I was in high school. During my high school studies I started undertaking my own plant ID, weed control and revegetation along numerous dirt roadsides near my home in Narine. Finished school and did Greencorps – Nortin Summit 2001-2002. Completed a degree in Natural Resource Management at Adelaide University (2002-2004). Worked for ForestrySA and DEH before starting my own business. I have worked as environmental weed contractor for 4 years, specialising in Bushcare weed control across the Mount Lofty Ranges (from the Barossa to Golden Grove to Kuitpo Forest) and have also worked in Tasmania, Kangaroo Island and Mt Gambier. My business focuses on Bushcare weed control (Cut & Swab, Drill & Fill) with the use of some machinery such as Brushcutters and Chainsaws. Have a look at this PDF link to get a good idea of the sort of work that we do. <http://www.clientology.net.au/client/restore.pdf>

I enjoy working outdoors and am passionate about conserving the environment. I can do this by controlling environmental weeds using minimal disturbance Bushcare techniques and doing it with a very high standard of work.

Research/Jobs

I do not do research as such with my type of work. I am a Bushcare contractor that controls a wide variety of environmental weeds. Recent projects that we have been working on;
Olive Drill & Fill in the South Para River
Artichoke spraying and Olive control in Para Woodlands (DEH)
Coolatai chipping & spraying Cobbler Creek Recreation Park (DEH)
Watsonia control South Para River (DEH)
Tamarisk Cut & Swab Milang
Boneseed control Kersbrook (ForestrySA)
Sollya Cut & Swab Mt Watch NFR (ForestrySA Mt Gambier)

Abstract for the poster I am preparing for the Weeds Conference in September

Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirt*) was first identified in Cobbler Creek Recreation Park, Golden Grove SA, in approximately 1994 and thought to be an upcoming weed of significance and a priority weed for control (Taylor, personal communication, June 23, 2010). Since that

date it has spread throughout the park and surrounding areas uncontrollably, outcompeting native plants and also forming dense thickets on grazing properties and in council reserves. Coolatai is a very invasive weed and tends to become dominant in open habitats such as woodlands and grasslands, particularly in areas with rainfall of 400-800mm. The original range of Coolatai is extensive, including Mediterranean Europe, southern and northern Africa and also into west Asia (CRC Weed Management Guide, 2007).

Coolatai can be controlled using a combination of both physical and chemical control methods depending on each individual site. Bushcare weed control techniques have been implemented within the park to try and control this weed because this approach best protects the sensitive native grasses and groundcovers that are growing in close proximity to the Coolatai patches. A combination of chipping and spraying is used to control the Coolatai stages, allowing the native plants to reoccupy where the weeds were growing and compete with any new seedlings that germinate the following season.

Bushcare weed control principals have been applied on some large patches of Coolatai in the park for the last 3-4 years and have resulted in the complete control of all mature plants in these areas; follow up chipping is still required to remove any newly germinated seedlings. It is a time consuming but rewarding process; increasing the conservation value of the largest remnant of Mallee Box (*Eucalyptus porosa*) grassy woodland left on the Adelaide Plains (Department for Environment and Heritage, 2003).

References:

CRC Weed Management Guide, 2007.

Department for Environment and Heritage (2003)

Cobbler Creek Recreation Park Management Plan, Adelaide, South Australia."

