
Thistle management

Proceedings of a workshop held at CSIRO Division of Entomology, Canberra on 12–13 June 1996. Organized by S. Corey, D.T. Briese and T.L. Woodburn and sponsored by the Co-operative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems.

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Preface

The Co-operative Research Centre for Weed Management Systems was set up to co-ordinate research and enhance collaboration between groups working on weed management. As part of this aim the CRC is sponsoring a number of workshops to gather together researchers and practitioners so that better weed management systems can be established. The thistle management workshop was one of these.

Of the dozen or so species of thistle in Australasia which are weeds of pastures and crops, several belonging to the genera *Carduus*, *Carthamus*, *Cirsium*, *Onopordum* and *Silybum*, are key weeds in particular situations. Considerable effort has gone into their control with little progress to date.

The workshop was a unique opportunity to discuss with researchers, extension workers and end users, the potential to integrate the various weed management practices that are currently being utilised. These include work on the ecology of the weeds, grazing and pasture management, herbicide use and biological control.

The papers presented in these proceedings outline some of the research which

has recently been conducted along with some of the problems which are currently being faced. The papers are summarised in the outcomes paper at the end of these proceedings and 24 final recommendations are listed. There was general consensus amongst the workshop delegates that integration of weed management techniques, rather than relying exclusively on one control strategy as has tended to happen in the past, was the key to successful thistle management. Some of the most highly ranked recommendations related to communicating results to end users, an area which the CRC had previously recognised as a high priority.

It is the hope of the organisers that the recommendations made at this workshop will lead to further research to fill in some of the 'gaps' in our current knowledge along with assuring a better communication link with the end users. The final aim being implementation of better weed management systems.

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