Xiaocheng Zhu

Xiaocheng Zhu is a PhD student in Charles Sturt University, studying the morphological and genetic diversity of silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*), a Weed of National Significance. The diversity of weed species will impact on the effective management. The study aims to improve the understanding and management of silverleaf nightshade.

A poster "Emergence cohorts significantly impact on development and growth of silverleaf nightshade" will be presented on the 18th Australasian Weed Conference. This research highlights the significantly impact of emergence time on both seed – and root – generated silverleaf nightshade. Their studies also indicated that silverleaf nightshade fruits formed between December and January and peaked in March. Thus effective management should be conducted before December to minimize the input to the soil seedbank. In addition, because of the considerable drought summer in Australia, people believed seed –generated silverleaf nightshade could not flower in their first growing season. However, this research suggested that seed – generated seedlings can flower and set seed in their first growing season under the Australian climate. Therefore, control of these seedlings is important to avoid seed bank replenishment.