FERAL ANIMALS AND WEEDS

WWF WORKSHOP
22 August 2009

First of all I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lindsay Strange and I am the new Bio Security Officer for the Peel region covering, Waroona, Murray, Mandurah and Rockingham Shires.

On Saturday 22/8/09 I attended a workshop at Lake Clifton hall and I would particularly like to thanks those landholders that attended. It was a good opportunity for me to meet a few people from the area and see what Bio Security issues you have.

The workshop was organized by Brett Brenchley, Wetland Watch Project Coordinator WWF-Australia. Brett is working on a project with the Mandurah Shire in particularly those properties that a-join Lake Clifton.
After a round the table introduction and landholders expressed their major concerns, two stood out from the rest

1. ***Rabbits***

The best control measure for rabbits is 1080, but given your location, size of land holdings, public access and pet dogs in the area it will be very difficult to pass a risk assessment. However, in saying that if you were to look at a collective group of landholders it may be possible. If you wish to go down this track give ma a call and we can talk about it first. Other alternatives are:-

- **Trap** live - capture cage traps may be used to catch rabbits when their numbers are relatively few and they are restricted to a relatively small area (note: the use of steel jaw traps to capture rabbits is illegal).
- **Poison** (1080 or Pindone) given the reason mentioned above, unfortunately it will make it very hard to obtain 1080. The most suitable rabbit poison in urban areas is the anticoagulant, Pindone. Pindone is similar in action to the anticoagulant poisons used to control rats and mice (for example Warfarin, Bromadiolone).To be effective, Pindone bait needs to be ingested by rabbits over several nights of feeding. Native fauna do not have the same immunity to Pindone as they do to 1080. This increases the risk of destroying native fauna in the area and there still is the risk of secondary poising.
- **Fumigate** rabbit warrens
- **Ferrets**
- **Denied Access -** prevent rabbits from entering the area by taking away the food source or fencing which is probably the most expensive option but will give you long term protection

2. ***Weeds***

Talking to landholders, it seems the worst weeds are Cotton Bush, Apple of Sodom and some Cape Tulip. All three weeds are declared P1 and P4 plants and you are required under the *Agriculture and Related Resource Protection Act (1976*) to carry out control work to eradicate the infestation and prevent seed spread from your land.

While most landholders are doing a great job controlling these weeds on their property, some landholders have neglected to carry out control. Failure to carry out the required weed control may result in action to carry out treatment of the weed infestation at your cost under Section 52 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*. Please note that this cost may include any expense incurred in managing the control work such as spray contractor charges, chemical, DAFWA supervision of the contractor, travel costs, mileage, etc. DAFWA also reserves the right to pursue prosecution under Section 51 of the Act.

Over the next three months I will be sending out letters of concern and issuing work orders along with random weed inspections to ensure the work is being carried out.

Below is a guide for chemicals and optimum spraying times. Please check the chemical label before spraying, for your personal protection requirements and any rate changes that may have occurred Plant size and timing will affect your results. If you require further advice please contact your chemical retailer or give me a call.

Most weeds can be hand removed at any time. Winter months are usually better because the ground is soft.

If you require any further advice on Bio Security issues please give me a call or send an e-mail.

Lindsay Strange, Bio Security Officer, 97337777, Lindsay.strange@agric.wa.gov.au

DECLARED PLANT CONTROL CALENDAR

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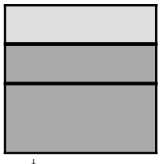
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
APPLE OF SODOM												
CAPE TULIP												
COTTON BUSH ⌖												
PATERSON'S CURSE												
VARIEGATED THISTLE ⌖												

KEY:-



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Optimum spraying time - maximum control achieved.

Spraying recommended only after summer rains have fallen

Spraying can still be carried out - satisfactory control will be achieved using higher rates.

Multiple germination's during growing season, may require more than one treatment.

APPLE OF SODOM	AMITROLE T®- 1 part in 60 parts of water (1:60), plus 10g of Metsufluron per 1100L plus wetting agent at 1 part in 600 parts of water.
CAPE TULIP	CHLORSULFURON - 1 gram in 50 litres of water & wetting agent at 1:400. METSULFURON METHYL - 1 gram per 50 litres plus wetting agent at 1:400
COTTON BUSH	Small infestations - pull out by hand. Glyphosate at 1litre to 100litres of water.
PATERSONS CURSE	CHLORSULFURON - 1 gram in 50 litres (20g/ha) of water & wetting agent . METSULFURON METHYL - 5 g/ha plus wetting agent at 1:400, for later season control.
VARIEGATED THISTLE	2,4-D AMINE* at 2 - 5 litre per hectare for seedlings plus wetting agent at 1:600. Use higher rates for larger plants. Slashing of older plants to stop seeding is also effective.

NOTE - The Herbicides marked * are subject to the Restricted Spraying Regulations Act 1979.
A Permit is required from the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD for any applications of these chemicals within 5 KMS of a commercial vineyard or tomato grower

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR NEAREST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OFFICE