



July 2013

# MANAGING BROOMRAPE ON A LIFESTYLE PROPERTY

Management considerations throughout the growing season

## January & February

Depending on the chosen land use weed control over the summer may or may not be a priority. If planning to sow crops or pastures into a paddock summer weed control should take place prior to the end of February.

Broomrape emergence over the summer is unlikely but its best to monitor known infested areas on the property as a precaution.

## March & April

Good summer rain or late summer rain may stimulate early germination of some winter annual weeds. If paddocks become green after rain host weeds are likely to be present and the broomrape lifecycle will begin.

If planning to sow paddocks for feed don't let early weeds get too big before spraying as bigger weeds are harder to kill. Keeping paddocks sprayed off for at least a month prior to sowing is best practice for sown crops and pastures.

Weeds to watch include capeweed, sowthistle, wild turnips and mustards and cretan weed. Note, there will be no broomrape activity if there is no summer or autumn rain.

Landholders living on a lifestyle property, big or small, can help minimise the spread of broomrape by taking an active approach to weed management.

Preventative measures will involve spraying weeds during the growing season.

Late control measures include monitoring and management of broomrape at the time of emergence.

## What are Growing Degree Days?

*Growing Degree Days (GDD) are an accumulation of average daily soil temperatures and are used to give a prediction of broomrape development. GDD typically begin accumulating from the "break of season" or earlier if there is rain that prompts weed growth in a paddock.*

*Broomrape Development:*

- 500GDD broomrape attachments begin to form on host plants.
- 1000GDD the majority of attachments are present on host plants underground. This is the ideal time to spray with herbicides.
- 1500GDD broomrape emergence is expected.



## April & May

Typically “break of season” rainfall is received which will prompt the first flush (or subsequent flush if rain has already fallen) of host weeds and associated broomrape attachments. GDD will begin or continue to accumulate.

A good knockdown spray prior to sowing will help keep paddocks clean from weeds early. Broomrape development will be later in these paddocks when early host weeds have been controlled.

Monitoring volunteer pastures, fence-lines and native vegetation for large broadleaf weeds is important. Plan to spot spray known broomrape areas with a broadleaf herbicide or group B herbicide before weeds get too big.

## June, July & August

Monitor emerging crops and pastures. Ideal spray timing for crops and pastures is between 700 and 1300GDD (depending on herbicide) so monitor GDD for your area.

Refer to the On Property Management of Branched Broomrape - Best Practice Manual for a range of herbicide options in crops and pastures.

## September & October

As conditions warm up, GDD will begin to accumulate quickly and will reach 1500GDD. Emergence is expected at around 1500GDD but you may see plants emerge earlier or later depending on exactly when they attached to hosts at the beginning of the season.

Emergence can persist over a period of weeks so monitor known infested areas weekly over this time and consider spray-topping entire pastures or spot spraying smaller areas. Re-visit fence-lines and native vegetation areas and spot spray if necessary.

## November & December

Broomrape emergence can continue into November in years with long wet growing seasons although this is not common. Be prepared to continue monitoring and mopping up with weed control on emerged plants in November in wetter years that have more persistent weed growth.

For some lifestyle landholders ongoing spraying or spraying on a large scale is difficult due to time constraints, lack of equipment or both. In this situation consider employing a reputable spray contractor to help with weed management. Local Councils may be able to assist with providing names and contact details.

## Treating emerged plants

If no weed spraying has taken place throughout the growing season, broomrape can still be managed with careful monitoring of known infested areas followed by immediately dealing with emerged plants.

Broomrape seed set can be prevented by treating fresh flowering plants and hosts with glyphosate straight away and then hand picking and collecting into a plastic bag if practical. Burn handpicked plants. Emerged plants mature and set seed quickly therefore there is a limited window of time to spray.

Mature plants and flowers that have dried off are likely to have set seed and should be drenched with Interceptor Concentrate Weed Control®. Drench a half metre buffer around emerged plants and to a depth of 20cm.

It's important to mark these areas for future reference so that monitoring can be targeted in following years.

## For more information

Other Managing Broomrape Fact Sheets and the On Property Management of Branched Broomrape - Best Practice Manual can be found at:

[www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/nrm\\_biosecurity/weeds](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/nrm_biosecurity/weeds)

The SA Murray Darling Basin NRM weather stations provide daily GDD for different Mallee areas.

Visit: [www.aws-samdbnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.aws-samdbnrm.sa.gov.au)