



Weedscene

Volume 15 Issue 4

Newsletter of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.

July 2004

ACN: A0011723W ABN: 15 496 325 152 Print Post Approved – Publication Number 310279/00029

Urban grasslands, their management and restoration

*A seminar presented by the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.
in conjunction with the Melton Shire Council*

Date Tuesday 5th October 2004

Venue Melton Shire Council's Community Hall, High Street, Melton Melway ref 115 C9

Chair Bram Mason, Melton Shire Council

Urban grasslands are slowly shrinking and disappearing as the urban sprawl spreads further and further into previously extensive tracts of indigenous grasslands on the fringe of Melbourne.

What can be done to keep those grasslands that are healthy and viable, and also to regenerate them? If this is something that you are interested in then come and listen to specialists in urban grassland management pass on their information.

- What are the non-herbicide weed control options?
- What are the regulations that cover herbicide use in grasslands? .
- What is the latest research and how can it be used?
- What management strategies can be successful?
- What are the management issues that are faced by local government?
- Can grasslands be restored using native grasses and forbs?

These and other issues will be discussed at this seminar.

At the end of the seminar there will be a bus tour of local urban grasslands, to see how the Melton Shire Council has restored some of their grasslands.

PROGRAM

- 08.00–08.55 Registration.
- 08.55–09.00 Welcome and housekeeping. Richard Denver, President WSV.
- 09.00–09.30 Integrated control of serrated tussock at Bush's Paddock native grassland: More than one way to kill a cat. Richard Rowe, Pinkerton Forest Landcare and Environment Group.
- 09.30–10.00 Local Government grassland management perspectives: Examples in the Shire of Melton. Alan Brennan, Melton Shire Council.

10.00–10.30 MORNING TEA

10.30–11.00 Management of Chilean needle grass in native grasslands: the seedbank story. Louise Beames, Colin Hocking, Victoria University of Technology, St. Albans Campus.

11.00–11.30 Recent perspectives on integrated grassland management to maintain or improve ecosystem health. Colin Hocking, Victoria University of Technology, St. Albans Campus.

11.30–12.00 Direct seeding in weed infested remnant grassland situations using native forbs. Randal Robinson, Victoria University of Technology, St. Albans Campus

12.00–12.30 Clean green grassland repair using kangaroo grass. Bram Mason, Melton Shire Council

12.30–13.00 Grassland edges: Weed invasion patterns strategies for keeping weeds out. Nick Williams, Melbourne University

13.00–13.10 Poster presentation: Grazing and regional best practice management of Chilean needle grass. Charles Gesch, Department of Primary Industries, Attwood

13.00–14.00 LUNCH

14.00–16.00 Visit to the Melton's grasslands: Remnant wildflower displays and management sites.

Please fill out the flyer (enclosed with this issue of Weedscene) if you wish to attend the seminar and return it to The Secretary, WSV, PO Box 987, Frankston 3199.

There will be space available for displays and posters. Please notify the Secretary in advance if you wish to bring either of these. Bring along any grassland specimens that you have for identification.

Recipient for the Weed Society of Victoria Prize

Lydia Beshara was one of the 2003/2004 recipients for the Weed Society of Victoria's Prize. Lydia graduated on the 21st May 2004 from the University of Melbourne Burnley Campus with an Advanced Diploma of Horticulture. Lydia is about to enter the nursery industry. The University of Melbourne Burnley Campus has expressed their appreciation of the financial assistance offered by the WSV in supporting student excellence in weed science.

Lost WSV member

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Margaret Shepherd, formerly of Longerenong College Horsham?

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Weedstop program Machinery washdown/inspection workshop

Stuart Lardner, Department of Primary Industries

A workshop has been developed for individuals and industry groups involved in activities with a potential risk of spreading weeds on plant or machinery. The one-day workshop covers vehicle inspection, vehicle wash-down, weed identification, legislative requirements, civil litigation and other weed-related topics.

Initially, participation will be sought from earthmoving, harvesting and other agricultural contractors, shire staff, field staff of utilities such as Telstra and also Department of Primary Industries field staff. The inspection and components of the training workshop are aligned with the National Conservation and Land Management Course competencies. Certificates of obtainment for these competencies can be provided to participants.

The training is likely to be offered initially by the Department of Primary Industries with the University of Melbourne's Longerenong College being the most likely initial Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

The workshop is part of a program known as Weedstop, developed by Department of Primary Industries staff with funding from the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The program also includes the use of Voluntary Vendor Declarations and Vehicle Logbooks. Weedstop in turn is part of a wider program known as the Pest Plant Distribution Prevention Strategy, which focuses on prevention and early intervention as the most effective and cost efficient means of weed management at a statewide level.

The Voluntary Vendor Declaration is to be used when a person purchases a

product that potentially contains weed contaminants. The vendor certifies on the Declaration that particular weeds were present in, or absent from, the area where the product was sourced. Both vendor and buyer retain a copy of this record.

The system can be applied to live-stock, fodder, grain and other farm produce, as well as products such as soil, lime and fertiliser, and enables purchasers to better ascertain the risks associated with the introduction of weeds in the product.

Contactors can also request that a Vendor Declaration be completed by a landholder when the contactor starts work on their property. The Declaration, which is produced in triplicate, indicates to the contractor what weeds are present on the property they will be working on. The landholder receives the original Declaration, the contractor retains the copy, and when the contractor moves on, the next client on receives the second copy without landholder details. The landholder is always in a position to ascertain the weeds that were present on the land on which the contractor last worked, and the contractor has a complete series of records of potential contaminants in the areas worked.

The Vehicle Logbook shows when the driver owner last washed down the equipment they are using and also where and how it was washed down.

The aim of the program is to provide contractors with a method to protect themselves from litigation and to promote their business as one which uses risk management systems to minimise the introduction of pests onto farming

properties and other lands. The program is also a tool which landowners can use to assist in preventing the introduction of new weed species onto their properties.

The workshop is in its final draft stage and is ready for trialing with council staff, Departmental officers and other interested groups, before being fine-tuned and made available for wider implementation.

For more information please contact Stuart Lardner at DPI, Tel: 03 5362 2111.

Weedspread prevention

Golden Plains Shire (Bannockburn) has teamed with the Departments of Sustainability and Environment and Primary Industries to undertake a trial project to help reduce the spread of weeds throughout the Shire.

The Weedspread Prevention Wash-down Project will be trialed over the next twelve months. The trial involves the use of a portable washdown facility enabling machinery such as slashers, graders, trucks and excavators to be washed down before moving to another worksite.

Council's Natural Resources Officer, Robert Gibson, believes the wash down equipment provides the Shire with the capacity to prevent weed seeds from being distributed on Shire equipment. 'Our machinery moves all over the Shire and being able to wash dirt and seeds from it on site reduces the likelihood of seeds being carried into areas free of weeds', Mr. Gibson said.

During the period of the trial, the Department of Primary Industries will be collecting vegetative material washed from Golden Plains Shire's machinery.

This will help identify what seeds are being collected and provide valuable information as to the effectiveness of the wash down facility. Golden Plains Shire will provide feedback to the Department of Primary Industries regarding the ease of use and value of the wash down unit. The results will then enable the adoption of field based wash down units to be promoted amongst other municipalities and private contract operators.

Mr. Gibson explained that weed spread on earthmoving and slashing equipment is a constant cause for concern for both landholders and the Shire. 'Controlling weed infestations is difficult and expensive and the Shire is committed to reducing the spread of weeds by implementing reliable prevention practices', he said.

Golden Plains Gazette
June 2004

EUREKA! AgResearch Pty. Ltd.



For further
information about
EUREKA!
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Asparagus Weeds Working Group – South Australia: Bridal Creeper Rust Fungus Workshops

- General information about rust fungus.
- An update on rust sites around the Southern Hills Region.
- Demonstrations on how to collect and use rust, including spore water.
- Identifying other asparagus weeds.
- Rust collection.

Thursday 22nd July (INMAN VALLEY)

Inman Valley Community Hall, Inman Valley. Directly across from the General Store.

- Workshop 1 (10.00–13.00)
For landowners and community groups within the region (Free Sausage Sizzle).
- Workshop 2 (14.30–17.30)
For Natural Resource and Industry Representatives
(Tea/coffee and light snacks).

The Kangaroo Island Animal and Plant Control Board (Dean Overton) will demonstrate the 'spore water' method of applying rust fungus to bridal creeper.

Friday 23rd July (WILLUNGA)

Willunga Hub, Corner of St. Peters Tce. and High Street.

- Workshop (10.30–13.30)
For landowners and community groups within the region
(Tea/coffee and light snacks).

Tuesday 27th July (STRATHALBYN)

Strathalbyn Community Centre, behind Strathalbyn Council Office.

- Workshop (10.30 – 13.30)
For landowners and community groups within the region
(Tea/coffee and light snacks).

Please contact Dave Cunningham if you have any questions or would like to attend a workshop. Dave Cunningham is the Project Officer – Asparagus Weeds Working Group of the Southern Hills Region, PO Box 1565, Victor Harbor, SA 5211, Tel (08) 8552 9366, Fax (08) 8552 3950, Mobile 0417 858 457.

Bridal Creeper information is available at www.ento.csiro.au/bridal_creeper/index.html

Research into control of Weeds of National Significance 2004–05

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage is currently seeking project applications under the Natural Heritage Trust national investment stream for research and development relating to the control of the following 10 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).

1. Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)
2. Athel pine (*Tamarix aphylla*)
3. Bitou bush/boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)
4. Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)
5. Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
6. Hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*)
7. Mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*)
8. Pond apple (*Annona glabra*)
9. Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
10. Willows except Weeping Willows, Pussy Willow and Sterile Pussy Willow (*Salix* spp. except *S. babylonica*, *S. × calodendron* and *S. × reichardtii*)

Proposals should have a national focus. The types of activities that will be considered are research and development relating to the biological, chemical, mechanical and/or integrated control of WoNS.

In general, proposals should seek funding for up to one year. However,

funding for up to two years may be made available where the nature of activities warrants a longer-term commitment. Proposals seeking funding for more than one year must submit a detailed budget for both 2004–05 and 2005–06.

Weeds of National Significance were agreed by Australian, State and Territory governments in 1999 to improve coordination and integrated action needed to reduce the impacts of these weeds. All WoNS have a National Strategy and have (or in some cases will soon have) a National Coordinator whose main role is to help implement the strategy across the entire range and potential range of the weed. Further information on WoNS can be found at: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/wons.html>

To assist complementary arrangements, and to get better value for the projects, applications are sought that provide a matching or better level of agency contribution. To obtain a Natural Heritage Trust application form, or to discuss whether or not your proposal is eligible, please email roberta.thorburn@deh.gov.au. Application Closing Date – Friday 30 July 2004. Please forward applications to: Roberta Thorburn, Natural Resource Management Policy Branch, DEH, GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT 2601.

RIM: a bioeconomic model for integrated weed management of *Lolium rigidum* in Western Australia

from a paper by David J. Pannell, Vanessa Stewart, Anne Bennett, Marta Monjardino, Carmel Schmidt and Stephen B. Powles

The RIM (resistance and integrated management) model represents a wide diversity of herbicide and non-herbicide options for management of Australia's most important crop weed, *Lolium rigidum*, in the context of the non-irrigated extensive farming system of southern Australia. Enterprise choices in the model include cereals, lupins, canola and three types of pastures for grazing by sheep. Users of RIM may specify the enterprise sequence and any feasible combination of the 35 weed treatment options each year over 10 or 20

years. Weed treatment options include selective herbicides (11), non-selective herbicides (5), non-chemical treatments (16) and user-defined treatments (3). The model represents weed and seed bank population dynamics, weed-crop competition, weed treatment impacts (including phytotoxicity), agronomic details, and financial details. Economic and biological model results are presented for scenarios with differing levels of availability of selective herbicides and different rotational sequences.



First of its kind in Ontario Forestry – innovative biological vegetation treatment developed in Canada

From a press release

PARRY SOUND – Westwind Forest Stewardship, Inc. announced it has tested a novel biological silvicultural technology for hardwood vegetation control in crown and private forest.

The project involved the use of Myco-Tech™ Paste to release a white pine forest stand from deciduous broadleaf competition. When applied to cut wood surfaces of undesirable species, Myco-Tech™ inhibits sprouting and regrowth and supports young trees, thus allowing them to grow.

Myco-Tech™ Paste, the first biological hardwood vegetation control product in the world, has been developed and registered by Myco-Forestis Corporation, a Quebec biotechnology company.

Developed over many years of research and development, the Myco-Tech™ technology is a biological control method based on *Chondrostereum purpureum*, a naturally occurring fungal organism readily found in the temperate deciduous forest. Unmodified cultures of the fungal mycelium are incorporated into a biodegradable gel formulation that protects and nourishes the fungus. When applied to freshly cut stems or stumps, the natural wood decay process is triggered, thus inhibiting sprouting and regrowth. Consequently, the efficiency of mechanical cutting of undesirable brush is increased by 70% to 100%, depending on the species treated. Human health and environmental safety testing, and over 10 years of field efficacy trials, support the use of Myco-Tech™ Paste as a reduced-risk product that does not pose a health or environmental risk when used according to label instructions. The product was registered in 2002 by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency. The technique meets sustainable forestry management guidelines, as well as the objectives of government and environmentalists concerned with the use of chemical pesticides.

Presently available only in Canada, the 'Myco-Tech™' technology credits not only Westwind Forest and Myco-Forestis as international leaders, but also the Canadian forest industry in general. We are convinced that this novel biological tool for forestry vegetation management will help government authorities maintain a sustained yield of forestry products while respecting the environment, biodiversity and sustainable development', said Norbert Major, President and CEO of Myco-Forestis.

'As part of a sustainable development of forestry resources, Myco-Tech™ technology offers a unique ecological solution for vegetation management. We are proud to be able to contribute to the worldwide trend towards responsible resources management. The biotechnology is consistent with the objective of reducing the use of the chemical pesticides in forests and increasing sustainable yield', said Major. 'There is currently no other biological alternative that allows foresters to maintain their future yield capacity by ensuring sustained productivity of forestry plantations and natural regeneration with mechanical release alone. This new biotechnology will hopefully enable Canada to become a world leader in biological vegetation management', he added.

AgNet, 17 December 2003

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Weed Society of
Victoria Inc.



Students	\$20.00
Ordinary	\$40.00
Corporate	\$100.00

WSV HOME PAGE <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~weedsoc/>

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