

Urban grasslands, their management and restoration

REGISTER NOW

*for 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.

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.

To register contact Ros Shepherd, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Vic 3199. Phone/fax 9576 2949, email secwssv@surf.net.au.

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Serious water weed mistaken for another plant

A grower near Denmark, Western Australia, has unwittingly used the declared aquatic weed salvinia as a mulch and fertiliser for olive trees, having mistaken it for duckweed. The practice was discovered when shown on a rural television program.

Department of Agriculture project manager plant pests Ted Knight said salvinia was a declared weed in Western Australia because it could rapidly spread and choke ponds and waterways.

'This was a case of mistaken identity. Salvinia was being grown in small dams on the property and harvested as a natural mulch and fertiliser for organically grown olive trees on the same farm', Mr Knight said.

'Chemical treatment of the weed in

this case is not an option because the farm produce is grown organically. The owners have agreed to physically remove all of the weed from the dams.'

Mr Knight said the owners could consider replacing the salvinia with the native species, azolla, which is similar in appearance to salvinia but is not as aggressive in growth or weed potential. Salvinia and other aquatic weeds, such as water hyacinth, hydrocotyl, lagarosiphon and alligator weed, are all declared weeds in Western Australia which means they must be destroyed when found. All of them can spread quickly, form dense mats which block light for fish and other plants and have the potential to block up rivers, waterways, irrigation channels and dams, and overtake wetlands.

Mr Knight urged people to report to the Department of Agriculture any suspect aquatic plants, especially those that appeared to be spreading rapidly. He said most salvinia infestations were likely to be found in backyard ponds and on residential blocks. Salvinia is easily spread because parts of the plant can regenerate. A duck, for example, with parts of the plant attached to its feet could easily spread it to another area. Plants from an aquarium, water feature or pond must not be disposed of near any waterway or drain.

Further information about salvinia and aquatic weeds can be found online at www.agric.wa.gov.au.

**Department of Agriculture
Government of Western Australia**

Invasive Plants of National Importance

WWF Australia recently released a report, 'Invasive Plants of National Importance and their Legal Status by State and Territory'.

The report examines the State and Territory legal controls on nationally important weeds, namely the Alert List of Environmental Weeds, weeds recommended or national eradication, the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy target plant list, and Weeds of National Significance.

The report is available as a pdf download from the WWF web site at: http://www.wwf.org.au/News_and_information/Publications/.

The key findings are:

- There is a high degree of variability in State and Territory legal controls to invasive plants. At a national level, preventative legal measures on Invasive Plants of National Importance are poor, covering only about a quarter of plant species on average across all Invasive Plants of National Importance (IPNI) classes.
- On average, Queensland has the strongest preventative legal measures (controls on sale and importation) in place, though still only averaged 41.4% for preventative controls on IPNI species. This was followed by South Australia with an average of 33.0%, then by the cluster of New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania and further down, Victoria. The weakest preventative legal controls in place is the Australian Capital Territory, which averaged 0.0% due to outdated legislation not including provisions to enable the prohibition on sale and importation of declared invasive plants.

- The best performing State for controls on importation is Western Australia, which prohibits the importation of over half (55.7%) of IPNI species into their State.

The findings lead to the following conclusions:

- Combined State and Territory government legislation forms a very poor statutory framework to prevent the sale of Invasive Plants of National Importance.
- Most Invasive Plants of National Importance are not prohibited for sale, ranging from an average of 6.7% for NAQS target list species, 18.3% for Alert List species to 58.1% for WONS species and varieties.
- The low result for WONS, despite a long standing agreement by all States and Territories to control the sale of these species, highlights that the States alone are unable to develop a coherent national legislative approach to Invasive Plants of National Importance in a timely manner, if at all. To date, only Queensland and South Australia prohibit the sale of all 20 WONS.
- In general, the States and Territories did not have any legal controls in place for a high proportion of priority invasive plants still able to be eradicated, which included over half of the Alert List and nearly two-thirds of the natural ecosystem target list. This exemplifies that State and Territory government weed control efforts are poorly coordinated with those of the Australian Government, and the need for States and Territories to endorse and agree to be involved in

the any national effort to prevent and eradicate priority species.

- For naturalised non-native plants recommended for national eradication or containment, there is a strong State/Territory bias toward agricultural over environmental invasive plants. This needs to be corrected by the States and Territories as a matter of urgency.
- States and Territories with relatively weaker legislative controls need to amend or enact new legislation to strengthen the overall preventative response to invasive plants, in particular the Australian Capital Territory.
- At a national level, far stronger legal controls are needed to prevent the sale and importation of Invasive Plants of National Importance.
- The findings provide strong evidence of the need for national controls, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999, to prohibit the sale of invasive plants of national importance. Without such regulations, efforts by the NRM Ministerial Council and Primary Industries Ministerial Council to establish a national framework for preventative action, will be severely compromised.

Andreas Glanznig
Biodiversity Policy Manager
WWF Australia

Weed Society of Victoria grants Travel Award to student

The Weed Society of Victoria has granted a Travel Award this year for a student to attend the 14th Australian Weeds Conference in Wagga Wagga at the beginning of September.

It goes to Shiv Gaur from DPI Frankston, a Ph.D. student studying the biology and management of Chilean needle grass and serrated tussock.

Congratulations to Shiv for this award.

Ros Shepherd
WSV Secretary

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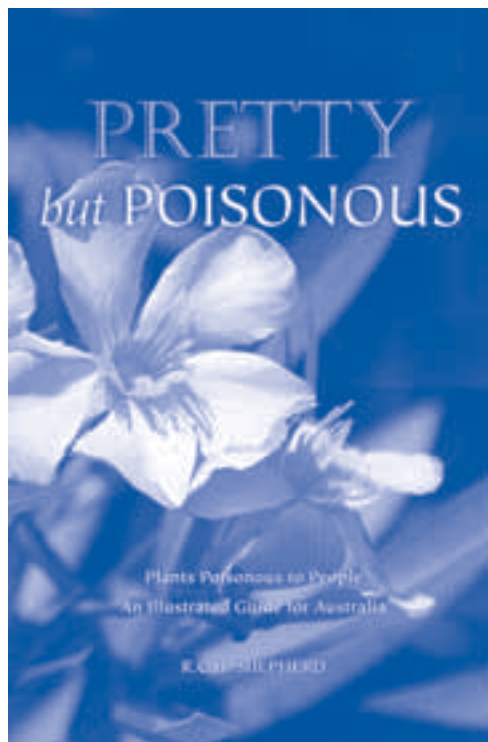
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NEW PUBLICATION DUE SEPTEMBER 2004



PRETTY *but* POISONOUS

**Plants Poisonous to People
An Illustrated Guide for Australia**

by
R.C.H. Shepherd

supported by
**Council of Australian Weed Societies
Department of Agriculture, Western Australia**

ISBN 0958743991, 202 pages, full colour, gatefold paperback

Pretty but Poisonous is written for home and landscape gardeners, parents, child carers, grounds maintenance staff, bush walkers and all those who enjoy the great outdoors, to help identify plants that may cause poisoning, allergies or skin reactions in people. The book uses easy-to-understand

language and colour photographs to aid plant identification. It includes hints on how to avoid plant poisoning and what to do if poisoning does occur.

A simple colour coding system has been used to establish how toxic each plant is...

• very poisonous • poisonous • allergenic • irritant

The book also details which parts of the plant are poisonous and the toxins that are likely to be encountered, as well as symptoms of poisoning. All these plants are found in Australia.

Price ONLY \$39.95

Please add \$10 per order within Australia for postage and handling [Prices include GST]

Orders to: R.G. and F.J. Richardson, PO Box 42, Meredith, Vic 3333. Tel/Fax 03 5286 1533.

Email: richardson@weedinfo.com.au. Website: www.weedinfo.com.au. Payment by cheque or credit card.

Journal articles of interest

'The GDS model—a rapid computational technique for the calculation of aircraft spray drift buffer distances'. I.P. Craig, *Computing and Electronics in Agriculture*, 43(3), 235-250, June 2004.

'Evaluating the feasibility of eradication for terrestrial weed incursions'. F.D. Panetta and Susan M. Timmins, *Plant Protection Quarterly* 19 (1), 5-11. 2004

'Economic benefits of a recent research program into controlling serrated tussock in south-eastern Australia'. D.T. Vere, G.R. Griffith and R.E. Jones, *Plant Protection Quarterly* 19 (3), 102-9, 2004

Weed Warriors – winning the battle

Gorse spider mite, bridal creeper leafhopper and Paterson's curse weevil are just a few of the weapons the Weed Warriors use to combat weeds. The innovative Weed Warriors program, supported by the Weeds CRC, educates schools and their local communities about the impact weeds have on the environment and how they can be controlled. In particular it uses the concept of 'biological control' by which officially approved insects, fungi or other agents that only attack specific weeds, are reared by school children and released at local sites with the help of local weed officers and land managers. Since its inception in 2002, 125 local Weed Warriors networks have been established around Australia.

The Weed Warriors program took out the highly competitive 'Excellence in Innovation Award' at the CRC Association Conference in June. The Association gives out just four awards at its annual conference which brings together members of the 70+ CRCs from around the country. The award was accepted by Vicki Hawker (on behalf of the SA Animal and Plant Control Commission), Rae Kwong (for the Victorian DPI and DSE) and Rachel McFadyen, CEO of the Weeds CRC.

This is a great achievement for the Weeds CRC and all its partners involved in the Weed Warriors program. Well done to all involved!

Kate McArthur and Sally Vidler
Weedwatch July 2004

Crop Spraying for People, Profit and Environment

An innovative series of conferences for efficient, safe and environmentally friendly crop spraying brought to you as part of the national Goldacres Conference Series. The conference will feature leading international and national experts, with the intention of improving spray efficiency and productivity and making spray application more environmentally friendly. The Conference will focus on the following topics:

- What new drift legislation and litigation will mean for the industry
- How to save time, money and chemicals through efficient spraying
- How to maximise the amount of spray reaching the target with minimum drift
- How to understand environmental factors to ensure the most efficient spray operation
- How specialised equipment can reduce drift, increase efficiency and save money
- How to identify water quality and its effects on spraying
- What are the ideal weather conditions – when best to spray to get good results

Location and dates

1. **Adelaide**
Wednesday October 13, Innovation House, Mawson Lakes Boulevard, Mawson Lakes, SA 5095.
2. **Perth**
Friday October 15, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850.
3. **Ballarat**
Monday October 18, Bell Tower Inn, 1845 Sturt Street, Ballarat, Vic 3350. This is followed by an optional Gold acres site tour on 19th October.
4. **Tamworth**
Wednesday October 20, Quality Hotel Powerhouse, Armidale Road (New England Highway), Tamworth, NSW 2340.

Speakers

- Harry Combella, Victoria,
- Thomas Wolf, Canada,
- John Nalawaja, USA,
- Chris Preston, Adelaide, and
- Nick Woods, Queensland.

For further information and to register contact: Organized Success, PO Box 1589, Ballarat, Victoria 3354.
Cost \$425.00.

7th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals

As Chairman of the Organising Committee, I wish to invite you to the 7th meeting of the International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals from 8 to 12 November 2004 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa. Not only is this the first time that ISAA is being held on the African continent, but also in one of the world's most attractive tourist destinations and one of the continent's business and agricultural hotspots. Cape Town owes its popularity with tourists to its cultural mix of African, European and Asian influences and yet is within easy access to the delights of the dark continent's charm.

The Western Cape, with Cape Town as the 'Mother City' serves as a major gateway the rest of South Africa and Africa, and together with Johannesburg, as a major centre for agricultural expertise and as headquarters for multinational companies involved in the agricultural sector. The total adjuvant market value in SA for 2001 was R20.3 million. Approximately 39 different adjuvant products are sold and 35 companies are involved in the adjuvant industry.

We have built on the hard work and success of previous ISAA meetings and will present you with an attractive range of scientific topics, commercial opportunities and social events. You will meet with research scientists developing new formulations and with those applying adjuvants under agricultural conditions in the field and hear how the adjuvant industry is facing up to the new challenges for more eco-friendly products. All these interesting aspects of ISAA 2004 may be studied on our website: www.ISAA2004.com.

We hope to enjoy with you the Symposium, visits to wine and apple farms, and a fascinating mix of Asian and European cultures.

Mike North, ISAA 2004 Chairman

The Technical Program

Papers that will be presented have been allocated to sessions under the general topics below. A panel of international specialists have refereed the papers offered for presentation to ensure that the previous high standards are maintained. Subjects range from changes in the global adjuvant market, new improved formulations, pest and disease management and weed control through to foliar nutrient uptake. Some specific papers cover recent changes in the global adjuvant market,

improving the efficacy of plant growth regulators with adjuvants, the influence of adjuvants on drift control of glyphosate applications and the development of rapid screening techniques for monitoring adjuvant efficiency.

Please view website www.ISAA2004.com for the list of presentations and posters included in the technical program.

Topics

The Symposium Program includes plenary sessions, workshops, a trade exhibition and poster sessions. Papers will be presented following broadly defined concept headings:

- Regulatory and environmental challenges
- Biological performance
- Trends in methodology and chemistry
- Drift and vapour management
- Wetting and uptake

Major Subjects Areas

- New developments in the formulation technology of tank-mix and built-in adjuvants
- New developments in adjuvant use with emphasis on improvements in biological efficacy of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, growth regulators, macro-and nutrients and other agents
- Influence of adjuvants on spray application technology
- Regulatory and registration aspects
- Mode of action of adjuvants in relation to foliar uptake
- Influence of adjuvants on the translocation of active ingredients in the plant
- Phytotoxicity of adjuvants and formulations
- Effect of adjuvants on emission
- Adjuvants and formulations for glyphosate
- Adjuvants of natural origin
- Effect of weather conditions on adjuvant performance
- Effect of adjuvants on the soil and water
- Degradability of adjuvants
- Adjuvants for biological control agents
- Adjuvant effect on cost/benefit ratio
- Effect of adjuvants on genetically modified crops

Website: www.ISAA2004.com

International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions

EMAPi9 is being held in at the Hyatt Regency, Perth, Western Australia, 17–21 September 2007. For information and to submit expressions of interest visit the EMAPi9 webpage at <http://www.congresswest.com.au/emapi9/>. Note: you can also submit species and subjects of interest for the conference.

The conference will cover topics such as ecological, biological, and biogeographical studies on invasive plants; the management of plant invasions; the development of multidisciplinary activities focussing on prevention of new incursions and management of existing infestations; appropriate legislation, public education and information; and other relevant aspects of plants that invade natural areas.

A poster for 9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPi9) is now available as a pdf from the Weeds Society of WA webpage: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~weeds/conference/index.htm>. Readers are requested to print a copy for your notice board to help raise awareness of the conference.

EMAPi8 is in Poland next year, and EMAPi7 was recently held in Florida.

**Sandy Lloyd, President,
Weed Society of Western Australia**

WSV Second Biennial Weed Conference *Smart weed control, monitoring for success*

Call for papers – closing date 1 November 2004

Following the success of the First Biennial Weed Conference held in Bendigo last year, the Weed Society of Victoria will be holding its Second Biennial Weed Conference in August 2005.

The theme of the conference will be *Smart weed control, managing for success* and it will be held on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th August 2005, at the All Seasons International Hotel Bendigo.

The program will be divided into four sessions:

- Getting technical
- Successful monitoring
- New and emerging problems, the importance of early detection
- Integrated weed management

There will be:

- Invited speakers per session

- Presented papers per session
- Poster sessions.

This conference will differ significantly from the last in that there will be time set aside for delegates to present papers. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster related to any of the four sessions or simply wish to be placed on a notification's list please fill out the form below.

If you wish to submit a paper please add a 10 line summary including any important and outstanding information as presentations are limited and may have to become posters.

This presentation information is required by 26 November 2004.

Send to: The Secretary, Weed Society of Victoria, PO Box 987, Frankston, Victoria 3199.

I	Company
Address.....	
Postcode.....	Email address.....
Wish to obtain more information about the conference.	
I wish to submit a paper entitled.....	
.....	
I wish to submit a poster entitled	
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Weeds in New Zealand

Many are the national volumes of weed identification. For New Zealand, a 1985 publication (with a second edition in 1986) offered *A Guide to the Identification of New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour*, a noble but minimally informative, less-than-reader-friendly effort. In 1998 the New Zealand Plant Protection Society published a notably improved sequel, *An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand*.

Now, the Society has brought forth a second edition of that guide, an information packed *tour de force* of weed identification that will be a highly useful resource for anyone with an interest in weed science. The 2004 version, especially in comparison to the 1985 work, shows a dramatic evolution with nearly a tripling of pages (321), vastly improved organization and grouping of data, a larger easier to view format, and dozens of vivid, clear full colour photos. Authors B. Roy, *et al.* tweaked the

contents of this edition and the communication specialists at Weed Information [R.G. and F.J. Richardson] in Australia produced a winning graphic design.

The bulk of the softbound work is focused on the actual plant descriptions including nomenclature, botanical characteristics, plus luscious photos, and an interesting small feature: derivation of botanical names. The newest Guide not only provides practical information, it stands as a model for weed identification texts. For further information contact R.G. and F.J. Richardson, PO Box 42, Meredith, Vic 3333, email richardson@weedinfo.com.au. Fax/phone: 03 5286 1533 or Web: www.weedinfo.com.au.

IPMNet News

WEEDeck weed identification card system launched

The National WEEDeck weed identification card system was launched in Rockhampton on Friday 9 July, by the Hon. Senator Ian Macdonald. He launched the new look www.weeds.org.au website which has been extensively revised and now includes an interactive weeds identification tool for the 172 weed species which are covered by WEEDeck cards. Each weed automatically links to the web search facility so that the latest control information published on the web can be accessed.

**John R. Thorp
National Weeds Management Facilitator**



WA Herbicide Resistance Initiative

The latest research results and news from the WA Herbicide Resistance Initiative (WAHRI) is now available. Visit <http://wahri.agric.uwa.edu.au/news.html>.

Articles in this issue include;

- Paraquat resistant ryegrass
- New versions of RIM (now available)
- Seed production of glyphosate resistant ryegrass plants
- Do resistant and susceptible weeds behave differently?
- Understanding the spread of small-flowered mallow
- Stimulating earlier ryegrass germination
- Ant weed management
- Multiple resistant wild radish
- Local Farmer Group Network

WHARI News and Views is edited by Michelle Owen and Rick Llewellyn, Western Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative, University of Western Australia, <http://wahri.agric.uwa.edu.au>

Queen's Birthday Honours List for weed scientist

Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) botanist, Barbara Waterhouse, who is in Program 1 of the Weeds CRC, has been awarded a Public Service Medal in the Queen's Honours list, for her contribution over many years to protecting Australia from exotic pests and weeds.

Through her work under the NAQS program in Australia and overseas, Barbara has been instrumental in preventing the establishment, or minimising the impact, of a number of serious weed species in Australia. Barbara is never 'off duty' tirelessly contributing to the early detection and risk minimisation of many weed species, which if established, could have a serious economic and environmental impact on Australia and its agriculture industries.

Congratulations Barbara.

Weedwatch July 2004

Is eradication possible?

Siam weed, *Chromolaena odorata*, impacts severely on pastures and plantation crops as well as natural ecosystems in tropical America, Africa, India, South-East Asia and Oceania. A program to eradicate the weed from Australia commenced in 1994.

The Commonwealth and contribute to the eradication program. Expenditure on the program totals \$1.5 million to June 2003. Richard Carter from NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Weeds CRC along with Jon Dodd of Department of Agriculture in WA conducted a review of the program. Some of the findings may help others embarking on an eradication program.

The Siam weed sites first found and treated in 1994 are rapidly exhausting their seed bank. Almost a quarter of the initial sites are now free of Siam weed. This suggests that it is possible to eradicate specific sites.

Eradication from Australia however is more difficult. Firstly the full extent of Siam weed in mainland Australia is still unknown despite the eradication program running for over ten years. In 2003, publicity programs increased public awareness and led to the discovery of outlier infestations at Townsville, and Innot Hot Springs. While these infestations are small, their discovery extended the range of Siam weed to an area covering 350 km by 125 km. To eradicate Siam weed the program needs to determine the full extent of the weed. This will require systematic surveys throughout the weed's potential distribution, designed with the help of a biometrician.

Another concern was that while the eradication program was progressing, there is a risk of further spread. In the eradication program potential spread-pathway management was considered initially. Staff changes and development of new industries contributed to new pathways during the eradication period.

The conclusion of the review is that it is possible to eradicate Siam weed from infested sites. The difficulty is identifying those sites in the first place.

Richard Carter, Weedwatch July 2004

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