

The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Local Land
Services
Northern Tablelands

Regional Best Practice Guide for: St. Johns Wort

Botanical Name: *Hypericum perforatum*

Common Names: St. Johns Wort

Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective – ASSET PROTECTION (Whole of Region)

This weed is widely distributed in some areas of the region. Their spread must be minimised to protect priority sites.

General Biosecurity Duty – *Biosecurity Act 2015*

A **general biosecurity duty** applies to all dealings (as defined) with this species. Any person who deals with this species who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk posed by the plant, a carrier or a dealing, has a duty to ensure the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Regional Recommended Measure:

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

- Land managers should prevent spread from their land, where feasible.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.
- **Mandatory Measure** (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017) - A person must not import into the State or sell.

New England Weeds Authority Local Control Requirements

Owners/occupiers of land are required to actively control St Johns Wort, and as a minimum, to continuously inhibit the plants ability to spread, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.



St John's Wort competes with useful plants in pastures, and large infestations reduce property values. St John's Wort contains the toxin hypericin, which causes photosensitisation in sheep, cattle, horses and goats. The skin damage associated with this problem leads to weight loss, reduced productivity and, in extreme cases, death. St John's Wort also adds vegetable fault to wool. Stock will only eat St John's Wort when other feed is scarce; however, it is quite poisonous, particularly to animals not accustomed to it. When animals ingest hypericin, it passes from the stomach to the bloodstream. When hypericin enters the blood vessels in the skin of an animal it is activated by bright sunlight. Sunlight alters the chemical structure of hypericin, making the compound potentially poisonous

The most cost-effective and practical control techniques to use will depend on the scale of the St John's Wort infestation and the topography of the infested land. All techniques should aim to remove the weed and replace it with introduced or native pastures.

St John's Wort Control Calendar

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR |
|-------|-----|------|------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

GROWTH CYCLES-

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| GERMINATION | GERM/SEEDLING | UPRIGHT GROWTH | FLOWERING | SENESCENT | |
| PERENNIAL GROWTH AFTER GOOD RAINS | | UPRIGHT GROWTH | FLOWERING | | SENESCENT |

INTERGRATED CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND ALTERNATIVES

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| HIGH STOCKING RATES INTENSIVE GRAZING | | | HERBICIDE OPTIMUM | | |
| PASTURE SOWING/ ESTABLISHMENT/MANAGEMENT | | | PASTURE SOWING/ ESTABLISHMENT/MANAGEMENT | | |
| HEAVY GRAZING MAY REDUCE FLOWERING & POTENTIAL SEED SET | | | | | |

Note: Managed heavy grazing and /or slashing will not kill St Johns Wort

Control Methods/Techniques: An integrated control program offers the most effective control outcome. Combinations of the following methods can be effective.

Manual/Mechanical Physically and carefully remove and burn mature flower heads with viable seed. Isolated annual plants with a single stalk can be destroyed by removing them. All root material must be completely removed in the process or the plants will re-generate.

Chemical: There are a number of Herbicides registered for use to Spot spray and boom spray St John's Wort.

Cultural/Biological: The use of perennial pastures and grazing management, together with the presence of biological control agents may offer some control.

Penalty for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The maximum penalty is:

- in the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- in the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017

References

- *NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 6th Edition.*



Download the weedwise app for detailed information on priority weeds in our area. For further information on registered herbicide application please refer to the Weedwise app or NSW DPI's Noxious & Environmental Weed Control Handbook.

For Further Information:

New England Weeds Authority
 129 Rusden St
 Armidale NSW 2350
 PH: (02) 6770 3602 www.newa.com.au
 or
 NSW DPI Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>
 or
 Northern Tablelands Local Land Services:
<https://northerntablelands.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.

Registered herbicide application rates for: St. Johns Wort

Botanical Name: *Hypericum perforatum*

Common Names: St. Johns Wort

Registered Herbicide Application Rates:

Triclopyr 300g/L + Picloram 100g/L + Aminopyralid 8g/L (Grazon[®]Extra) at 500ml/100L water spot spraying, Boom spray 2.0-4.0 L/ha Foliar application from late Spring to Summer. **Triclopyr 300g/L + Picloram 100g/L** (various trade names) at 500ml/100L water. (spot spraying). 2.0-4.0 L/ha Boomspray Foliar application from late Spring to Summer.

Fluroxypyr 333g/l (Starane Advanced[®]) 300ml in 100L of water Foliar application from flowering to early seed set.

Fluroxypyr 140 g/L + Aminopyralid 10 g/L (Hot Shot[™]) Rate: 700 mL in 100 L of water Foliar application from flowering to early seed set.

2,4-D LV ester 680g/L (Estercide[®] Xtra) Rate: 3.3–4.7 L/ha For use in grass pastures, before flowering, when the plants are less than 40 cm high

Glyphosate 360g/L (various trade names) at 3.0L/ha Apply November to May, flowering to post-flowering. Spray to wet, but not to cause run-off

Glyphosate 360 g/L with Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (Various products) Rate: 200 mL glyphosate plus 10g metsulfuron-methyl in 100 L of water

Critical Comments:-

- Apply to actively growing plants.
- Consult your LCA's weeds officers for application tips.
- Always read and follow the Label instructions and MSDS of respective herbicides.

NOTE:

- (a) All Control Techniques involving herbicide use, must comply with the directions on the herbicide label or the conditions set out in a current permit to use a nominated herbicide.
- (b) All chemical control programs must be carried out in accordance with the *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2009.
- (c) All Chemical application programs used must be undertaken by or be designed and supervised by an appropriately Certified and Accredited Chemical user.
- (d) Growth patterns and changes to optimum treatment times will vary with seasonal conditions due to rain events and air temperature changes, that may coincide with soil moisture availability.

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the North West Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.