

# Take a long term view of weeds

AN EARLY break and an abundance of feed can allow paddocks to get away from sheep or cattle, particularly as buying some extra mouths to feed is not a cheap exercise.

But it must not be forgotten that allowing the weeds to grow free and then set seed creates a longer term problem as it will take many years for the seed bank to be reduced again, especially with the hard-seeded varieties like wild radish.

Left to itself, wild radish has an ability

to set extremely large numbers of seeds, many of them the hard seeds that cause its staggered germination, so an early attack can pay big dividends.

Heavy grazing or spray grazing with 2,4-D Amine will work wonders and if all plants in the pasture mix are expendable at an early date, the tried and true Glyphosate is another good option.

If in doubt, talk to your 4Farmers agent or Terry Piper, Product Support, 4Farmers.



*A good season means that feed is plentiful enough to allow weeds like these to flourish, but if they are allowed to set seed, it will be a long and expensive exercise to recover.*

## It's a great season for insects

IT'S starting to look like a good season through most of the WA wheatbelt, but unfortunately insects seem to enjoy this event as much as farmers do, with the recent cold weather helping the emergence of RLEM.

But RLEM are not the only mites, with reports of blue oat mite, clover (bryobia) mite and balaustium mite being widespread, some of which have been in large enough numbers to require spraying.

Closer examination of some crops has shown that the leaf damage, apparently caused by mites, has actually been

caused by immature caterpillars which are still confining their feeding to leaf surfaces. As a rule of thumb, spray grubs with synthetic pyrethroids.

Although no insecticides are registered for use against balaustium mites, DAWA reports that rates of Alphacypermethrin used to control vegetable weevils have generally controlled the balaustium also.

Although it makes sense to apply insecticides with post emergent herbicides, this is not always a good idea as the mix may damage the crop if the insects have caused a lot of leaf tissue damage. If in doubt, seek professional advice.

## Weeds in lupins

WILD radish is one of the most persistent weeds, either by surviving early treatment or by its ability to stagger germinations, but it can be controlled, even in lupin crops.

A tank mix of Metribuzin and Diflufenican is a very effective post emergent treatment to control even quite large radish plants in lupins, dealing also with doublegee and cape weed.

But the mix should not be applied to a crop which is showing any triazine damage, has problems with brown leaf spot or is under other stresses. It should not be used with oils, wetters, or EC's.

A wide range of grasses, including brome, barley and rye grasses plus wild oats and volunteer cereals, can be controlled in lupins and other broad leaf crops with Quizalofop-P-Ethyl (QPE).

Getting the weeds early is the most cost effective time to spray, but QPE should not be used before the crop reaches the five leaf stage.

## Powdery Mildew and Net Blotch in barley

Some cases of Powdery Mildew in barley crops have been received, together with queries about whether to spray with Triadimefon or the more expensive Propiconazole.

Terry Piper's suggestion is to first determine whether the Powdery Mildew is the only target, or whether Net Blotch is also present, as the former can be controlled with the less expensive Triadimefon 125EC or 500WP.

The Triadimefon 125EC will require 1000 mL/ha at a cost of \$5.70 or

250g/ha of the 500WP for \$5.25, both of which will give good control and a residual effect. The Propiconazole would require a minimum of 150 mL/ha for \$5.18, a rate that would give a bare control with little duration, while a rate of 250 mL/ha for \$8.63 would provide control with some residual. If Net Blotch is present, it will require 500mL/ha at \$17.25 to do the job, DAWA's recommended rate for mildew. So if Powdery Mildew is the only target, Triadimefon is the better option as it will last longer and cost less.

### A THOUGHT FROM e.anon.

"I went on a diet and gave up drinking and eating to excess. After only two weeks I had lost 14 days."

Technical information can be obtained from 4Farmers agents or from Terry Piper, Product Support, Welshpool on 9356 3445.

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