

# Use of herbicides

to control

## *Prickly Acacia*

### Using residual herbicides



Tebuthiuron is a non-selective broad spectrum herbicide of the urea class and is sold under several trade names (such as Graslant and Scrubmaster). One of its uses is to control woody weeds such as Prickly Acacia.

It comes in a pelletised form which is spread on the soil surface. The first rain after application will normally dissolve the pellets and move the active ingredients into the soil where it is held in soil particles. The tebuthiuron is then absorbed by the plant roots and transported to the leaves where it inhibits photosynthesis. Plants die when their carbohydrate reserves are exhausted.

The time taken for complete plant death varies depending on a variety of factors. Woody plants may go through several defoliations and regrowth stages from 6 months to 2 years before dying. In a regrowth stage leaflets may emerge on branches and the main stem.

Tebuthiuron is formulated to decompose slowly so it has residual properties which serve to control the establishment of prickly acacia seedlings following treatment.

Effectiveness is reduced or the time for a final kill is extended by:

- Extended dry followed by a rainfall event followed by another extended dry. The plant stops growing and sap movement is greatly reduced so the chemical doesn't reach all the leaves;
- Reducing the application rate particularly when applying to high densities of prickly acacia or very mature plants

### Things to remember ...

- Tebuthiuron should only be used in accordance with the chemical label
- Effects will only start after rainfall events;
- Care must be taken not to broadcast it near the roots of trees for which it is not intended;
- Situations such as steep hillsides where rainfall events could move the pellets to other areas should be avoided;
- In very sandy soil the herbicide can be leached and moved out of the root zone.

### DCQ can help ...

- Programs being run by DCQ offer generous financial assistance to eradicate Prickly Acacia
- DCQ can provide technical assistance, equipment, chemicals and in some cases labour

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