

## CONTROL OF GORTERIA



Gorteria (*Gorteria personata*) is an introduced thistle-like weed. It is mainly found in the area between Mingenew and Meckering but isolated infestations have been found in other parts of the state.

Gorteria is an annual plant, germinating in winter and growing through spring, flowering in late spring. The seeds are contained in burrs which could be transported attached to livestock and clothes.

Gorteria does not compete in with pastures, however the hard dry seed heads could become entangled in wool and would be difficult to remove at processing.

Gorteria has woody stems and spreading branches. The leaves are about 8 cm long. They are dark green on the upper surface and light green underneath with a broad, flat leaf stalk. Both leaves and stems are covered with stiff hairs and feel rough to the touch.

The flowers are small and yellow. They occur at the end of branches and are surrounded by stiff bracts, which harden in spring to form a spiny burr containing up to eight seeds.

Gorteria seedlings are quickly eaten by sheep in pasture situations. Elsewhere chemical or cultural control options must be used.

### Control

#### Cultivation and grubbing

Individual plants may be grubbed and small patches may be controlled by cultivation

#### Chemical control

Amitrole (320 g/litre) + atrazine (320 g/litre) (e.g Vorox AA\*)

KNAPSACK: 6 ml per litre of water.

BOOMSPRAY OR HANDLANCE: 6.25 litres of the mixture in 100 litres of water per hectare.

For both uses add 1.5 ml wetting agent per litre of water.

Recommended for larger infestations. Spray in winter, as soon as possible after weed emergence. Treatment must be repeated for several years until the seed bank in the soil is exhausted.

Amitrole (320 g/litre) + atrazine (320 g/litre) (e.g Vorox AA\*) + paraquat (100g/litre)

KNAPSACK: 2 ml of amitrole/atrazine and 1.5 ml of paraquat per litre of water.

BOOMSPRAY: 2 litres of amitrole/atrazine and 1.5 litres of paraquat per hectare in 100 litres of water.

For both uses add 1.5 ml wetting agent per litre of water.

An alternative treatment, recommended to give a quicker kill for older plants. This gives a rapid knockdown and prevents seed formation.

### Further Information

For advice in drawing up a Gorteria control programme for your property contact your nearest

Agriculture Protection Board district officer.