



The Weed Resource Update Bulletin - a new information service for weed managers

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in a nutshell

- NSW DPI has initiated a service called the **Weed Resource Update Bulletin** to better promote its information resources
- Subscribers to the **Weed Resource Update Bulletin** will be able to access a full range of information on agricultural, aquatic, noxious and environmental weeds in a time efficient way and be confident the information is accurate and credible
- As new information resources become available subscribers to the service will receive a bulletin, by email or post, alerting them to its availability. The bulletin will also include a current catalogue of all available NSW DPI weed resources

“One of the worst troubles to be faced by the irrigation settler is the prevalence of weeds.”

This sentence was printed in the Agricultural Gazette of NSW in 1914 by E. Breakwell, an agrostologist (or agronomist), in an article titled ‘Weeds on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area’.

The prevalence of weeds is still the case today despite years of research and development to lessen the impacts of weeds. In fact, it is probably truer today than back then. Now we not only focus on controlling weeds to maximise the profitability and sustainability of our farming systems but we are also concerned about the impact weeds have on our conservation areas and waterways, which is reflected throughout the southern irrigation areas of NSW by the number of initiatives and programs established in recent times and embraced by irrigators.

The development and implementation of land and water management plans (LWMPs), the establishment of Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and the introduction of industry initiatives like the Environmental Champions Program have resulted in greater awareness of the impacts settlement and farm activities have had on the environment.

Irrigators are under increasing pressure to adopt best management practices in the use of herbicide to protect the environment and minimise off-farm impacts. The amount of herbicide used in primary production has been in the public eye for some time and reducing this is an important aspect of integrated weed management strategies.

Weeds here for the long run

Herbicide resistance, drought recovery and climate change will all be issues affecting the management of weeds in the future.

The development of herbicide resistance and a lack of integrated weed management options is becoming more common in NSW and potentially threatens many of our farming systems. Effective weed management during drought recovery will be critical in restoring once productive farming land to its pre-drought status and we can only guess how climate change will eventually impact on our farming systems and landscapes. Potentially, we may be dealing with new species of weeds with changing distribution patterns and ecologies requiring innovative and long-term weed management strategies.

Weeds are recognised as being the second greatest threat to biodiversity in Australia – second only to land clearing. In recent times there has been a growing public awareness of the state of our environment and issues such as biodiversity. LWMPs provide incentives to include remnant vegetation and biodiversity management into whole farm plans. CMAs are also directing resources into biodiversity activities such as removing willows (a weed of national significance) from waterways and revegetating with appropriate species.

Dealing with this enormous range of issues will require irrigators and advisors to have access to the latest weed information on identification and cost effective management strategies.



Timely access to information is the key

There is no doubt that having access to timely and current information is the key for irrigators to effectively minimise the impacts of weeds on their farm business and local environment. This however, is a difficult thing to do. There is a wealth of information out there but it takes time to find it and often it is unclear how credible the information is.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) has a long history of providing highly credible information to farmers and farm advisors. We have a commitment to providing quality, timely information to the weed managers of NSW in both print and electronic forms. Currently NSW DPI has over 150 free weed information resources with a program to continue developing new resources in the future to meet our clients' needs. At present, we not only produce a wide range of publications such as Primefacts, Weed Alerts and Weed Control Handbooks but we also provide them free to our clients.

NSW DPI is a partner in developing, producing and distributing weed information resources with other organisations such as the CRC for Australian Weed Management, industry organisations such as Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), CSIRO and other state agencies.

Unfortunately, a recent survey of land managers and advisors indicated that most didn't know what information was available or where to get it. Because publications alone will not achieve good weed management outcomes without weed managers having access to them, NSW DPI has initiated a service called the **Weed Resource Update Bulletin** to address the issues identified and promote our information resources better.

What is the Weed Resource Update Bulletin?

The Weed Resource Update Bulletin is a free service offered by NSW DPI to anyone who has an interest in being informed on new information to identify and manage weeds.

As new information resources become available subscribers to the service receive a bulletin, by email or post, alerting them to its availability. The bulletin provides a link to the publication on the NSW DPI website so the document can be easily reviewed and printed plus a simple ordering process if

a hard copy is required.

The bulletin also includes a current catalogue of all available NSW DPI weed resources so subscribers can access our full range of weeds publications quickly.

From time to time, the bulletin will promote relevant saleable publications. It may also provide information about on-line resources appropriate for land managers and advisors such as weed identification keys.

Depending on how quickly resources are produced, the bulletin is issued approximately every two months.

Benefits of subscribing to the service

Subscribers to the **Weed Resource Update Bulletin** will be able to access a full range of information on agricultural, aquatic, noxious and environmental weeds in a time efficient way and be confident the information is accurate and credible.

Whether you are managing weeds in your crop or channel, establishing a woodlot, enhancing remnant vegetation or planting a garden around your home, this service will allow you to make good decisions based on the best available information.

How do I subscribe to the service?

Subscribing to the service is easy. There are two options.

Send an email to weed.resource@dpi.nsw.gov.au with the word "subscribe" in the subject line and your name, address and contact number in the body of the email. This information allows us to contact you if, for example, you change your email address and don't notify the service administrator.

Alternatively, call (02) 6391 3800 to arrange a subscription form to be posted out, and you can supply your details for receiving the bulletin by post.

If you no longer want to receive the bulletin there is an easy process to unsubscribe. [link](#)

Further information

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Figure 1: The Weed Control in Summer Crops and sister publications are an invaluable resource for cropping systems.



Figure 2: NSW DPI has a wide range of Primefacts which are reviewed and reprinted regularly to maintain their currency.



Figure 3: Critical information and images for identifying weed seedlings is provided in another publication, Broadleaf weed seedlings of temperate crops and pastures, which is the culmination of years of work.