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Docks

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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WEED CONTROL

DOCKS

Some very encouraging results have been obtained by spraying docks with a solution containing Dicamba. This herbicide was previously known as Banvel D and is distributed under the trade name of Banex, which contains 20 per cent. active ingredient.

Different species of dock vary in their susceptibility to Dicamba, but until further trials are completed, one pint of Banex per acre is recommended for all species. This rate will kill annual clovers and medics and for this reason spot spraying is preferred to general boom application. For spot spraying a suitable solution is made by dissolving one pint of Banex in 150 gallons of water.

Results so far indicate that the best time to spray is when the docks are in the rosette stage; however, spraying in the early flowering stage would be less harmful to pasture plants and this is now being investigated. When seedlings are involved rather than regrowth from established roots, the rate of application should be halved.

Docks in a cereal crop, sown after effective ploughing, are controlled more readily. Good results can be expected from the application of 8 oz. active ingredient of 2,4-D ester per acre applied through a low volume boom spray when the cereal is 6 to 8 in. tall and freely stooling.

Dicamba is also effective against docks in cereals at ½ pint of Banex per acre. However, because some malformations of the cereal heads have occurred, further trials are necessary to assess effect on yield before its general use in cereals can be recommended. The 2,4-D is quite effective in cereals, and less costly than Banex.

The addition of 4 oz. of any standard wetting agent per 100 gallons of solution is recommended for spraying docks.

Trials planned for this year will investigate the significance of growth stage in relation to spraying and also the reaction of different species of docks.

Banex is an I.C.I. line distributed by Elders-G.M., Dalgety and New Zealand Loan, and Westralian Farmers, while 2,4-D is available from firms handling agricultural chemicals.
The Murray at Wentworth, N.S.W.—Chowilla Reservoir will extend upstream to Wentworth.

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