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## A herbicide for native poison plants

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# A HERBICIDE FOR NATIVE POISON PLANTS

THE usual method of killing poison plants is by a programme of ploughing, cropping and burning. The burning not only destroys a proportion of the plants, but stimulates the germination of dormant seeds, which otherwise would remain in the soil in a viable condition for many years.

Following the initial burning and ploughing, a cereal crop will provide straw for a second fire.

With heavily infested areas it is usual to sow two cereal crops along with a ploughing each time. Pasture species can be sown with the second crop and in this way no time is lost in developing the land.

Areas which cannot be handled by cropping and burning, such as rocky outcrops and along fence lines, can be controlled by spraying with a solution containing 2,4,5-T. A suitable mixture is made by dissolving one fluid ounce of 40 per cent. 2,4,5-T in one gallon of water. This solution should be applied as a high volume spray to both the leaves and stems.

Best results are obtained if the spraying is undertaken just before the flowering stage, which is usually towards the end of August.

The addition of a small quantity of wetting agent to the solution helps the chemical stick to the leaf. 2,4,5-T is not harmful to animals but it should be remembered that the poison plants remain toxic after they are killed.

The spray treatment is usually too costly for large areas and should only be considered where it is not possible to apply other control measures.

2,4,5-T is available from firms which distribute agricultural chemicals.