1-1-1967

Control of weeds in garden areas

Geoffrey A. Pearce
IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This document has been obtained from DAFWA's research library website (researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au) which hosts DAFWA's archival research publications. Although reasonable care was taken to make the information in the document accurate at the time it was first published, DAFWA does not make any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, currency, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose. It may be out of date, inaccurate or misleading or conflict with current laws, polices or practices. DAFWA has not reviewed or revised the information before making the document available from its research library website. Before using the information, you should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for your purposes. We recommend you also search for more recent information on DAFWA's research library website, DAFWA's main website (https://www.agric.wa.gov.au) and other appropriate websites and sources.

Information in, or referred to in, documents on DAFWA's research library website is not tailored to the circumstances of individual farms, people or businesses, and does not constitute legal, business, scientific, agricultural or farm management advice. We recommend before making any significant decisions, you obtain advice from appropriate professionals who have taken into account your individual circumstances and objectives.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Food and the State of Western Australia and their employees and agents (collectively and individually referred to below as DAFWA) accept no liability whatsoever, by reason of negligence or otherwise, arising from any use or release of information in, or referred to in, this document, or any error, inaccuracy or omission in the information.
CONTROL OF WEEDS IN GARDEN AREAS

G. A. PEARCE, M.Sc.(Agric.), Adviser, Biological Services Division

THE present-day gardener does not appear to relish the tedious job of removing weeds by hand. It is a never-ending task and no sooner is one germination controlled than another appears.

Hand pulling, digging, raking and other methods of mechanical weed control aer­ate the upper layer of the soil and make conditions favourable for the germination of weed seeds which were previously dor­mant. If the soil is not disturbed many of these dormant seeds will not germinate.

Modern herbicides provide a ready an­swer for overcoming the weed problem in the home garden, but it is essential to select the correct chemical and to under­stand its limitations.

SUITABLE HERBICIDES

To simplify the wide choice of chemicals which can be used, five materials readily available in small packs are suggested for various purposes.

1. Dacthal

This chemical is quite unique in that it does not affect any plant, weed or other­wise, but only acts against germinating seeds. For this reason, it can be applied
with complete safety by spraying over the top of newly transplanted seedlings and any other garden plant or shrub. For the same reason, it will not kill an established weed even though it may only be in the seedling stage.

APPLICATION

To use Dacthal effectively, it must be applied to a weed-free surface free of lumps and trash, even if it is necessary to hand-weed the area. Dacthal is suspended in water by mixing it into a stiff paste and gradually adding water until the correct solution is obtained.

RATE

One ounce should be mixed with one-half gallon of water, and this is sufficient to treat 25 square yards. The spray should be applied to moist soil and the treated area should be lightly watered after the chemical has been applied.

PERIOD OF EFFECT

Dacthal will kill germinating weeds for a period of 10-12 weeks providing the soil is not disturbed. After this period a further treatment is required, or seed can be safely planted and a normal germination obtained.

WEEDS KILLED

Dacthal is effective against annual weeds including crabgrass, wintergrass and other annual grasses, pigweed or portulaca, capeweed, wild radish, nightshade, etc. It
The weeds growing amongst these drums are sprayed with Tryquat once or twice a year as required.

will not affect weeds growing from bulbs or established root stock or perennial weeds.

2. Tryquat

This is a mixture of two contact herbicides which will affect all plant foliage contacted, but which has no effect on the soil. Providing there is no drift at the time of application, it can be used with safety amongst garden plants. Where the weeds are too close to garden plants the material can be applied to the leaves with an old paint brush. An alternative method of application is to make a hole in the bottom of a five-pound fruit tin, insert the spray nozzle and use this as a guard against spray drift.

RATE

One fluid ounce of Tryquat should be dissolved in one gallon of water and the solution applied so that the leaf surface is completely covered. To help the chemical wet the leaf a small quantity of wetting agent should be added to the mixture.

PERIOD OF EFFECT

Tryquat only kills the weeds present at the time of application, so that a further application is necessary after each germination of weeds. Provided the soil is not disturbed the number of weed seeds which germinate will steadily decline.

WEEDS KILLED

Tryquat is effective against all annual weeds and will kill the top of most perennials, however these will soon commence to grow again.

3. Weedazol TL

The active ingredient of this herbicide is amitrole and this can be used to control some perennial weeds in the garden. Perennial grasses, sedges, such as nut grass, and other weeds difficult to kill can be painted or sprayed with a solution containing Weedazol TL. A second or third application may be necessary for a complete kill but the main advantage with this herbicide is that it has no residual effect on the soil. Foliage of garden shrubs which may be accidentally sprayed will turn yellow and then white but unless the whole plant is treated the shrub will frequently recover.

RATE

Five fluid ounces of Weedazol TL should be dissolved in one gallon of water.

4. 2,4,5-T

This herbicide is a hormone-like material and must be used with great care to prevent damage to garden plants. Its one safe use in gardens is to kill tree stumps and unwanted creepers. Although 2,4,5-T can be applied as a spray to the foliage of unwanted trees and creepers,
this method of application is not favoured because of the risk to other garden plants.

**APPLICATION**

The unwanted tree or creeper should be cut off close to ground level and a solution containing 2,4,5-T painted on to the top of the stump. A suitable mixture is made by dissolving one fluid ounce of 40 per cent. 2,4,5-T in one-half pint of kerosene. Any suckers present should be treated in the same manner.

**5. 2,2-D.P.A.**

This is a grass weed killer and can be used to control perennial grasses. At the rate suggested, garden plants could be affected if the solution came in contact with either the foliage or the roots. For this reason it can only be used away from garden plants or where it can be painted onto the foliage. It is ideal for treating grasses growing between paving slabs or open stonework.

**RATE**

Five ounces of 2,2-D.P.A. should be dissolved in one gallon of water and this is sufficient to treat 30 square yards.

---

**HERBICIDES RECOMMENDED FOR THE CONTROL OF GARDEN WEEDS**

The herbicides listed are available in small quantities suitable for home garden use from the distributors shown. The text should be read for method of application. Column 6 shows the amount of herbicide sufficient to treat 30 square yards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed Problem</th>
<th>Time to Spray</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Trade Name</th>
<th>Distributor</th>
<th>Quantity in 1 gal. water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Weeds</td>
<td>Before weeds germinate</td>
<td>Dacthal</td>
<td>Dacthal W75</td>
<td>Dawson Harrison</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After weeds germinate</td>
<td>Tryquat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dawson Harrison</td>
<td>1 fluid oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tryquat</td>
<td>Wesfarmers</td>
<td>1 fluid oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blugrat</td>
<td>Terra Trading</td>
<td>8 fluid oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Polyquat</td>
<td>Blue Cross</td>
<td>10 fluid oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Selleys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Weeds</td>
<td>When young</td>
<td>Weedazol TL</td>
<td>Weedazol TL</td>
<td>Barrow Linton</td>
<td>5 fluid oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dawson Harrison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wesfarmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creepers or Trees</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>2, 4, 5-T</td>
<td>2, 4, 5-T</td>
<td>Barrow Linton</td>
<td>1 fluid oz in ½ pint kerosene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Cross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>David Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dawson Harrison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lanes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wesfarmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Terra Trading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Grasses (away from garden plants)</td>
<td>When making active growth</td>
<td>2,2-D.P.A.</td>
<td>Propon</td>
<td>Barrow Linton</td>
<td>5 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pon</td>
<td>Blue Cross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graypon</td>
<td>David Gray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dowpon</td>
<td>Dawson Harrison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lanes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wesfarmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Terra Trading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FARMERS ARE CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED
To Contact Directly
GERALD'S ELECTRIC
177A MURRAY ST., next to Aherns—in lane upstairs. Tel. 23 4589

BARGAIN SHOPPING
ELECTRICAL PHOTOGRAPHICS GIFT ARTICLES
FURNITURE CARPETS JEWELLERY

CHOOSE FROM 20,000 ITEMS
LOWEST TERMS IN W.A.
SEE US LAST!

After you have been everywhere in town, really shopped around, bring your best price to us, you'll leave us happier with more in your wallet.
We can guarantee it!

KNOWINGLY GERALD'S WILL NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO UNDERSELL THEM

Fans, Air Conditioners, Cake Mixers, Can Openers, Car Cleaners, Clothes Dryers, Coffee Percolators, Cookers, Deep Fryers, Frypans (all sizes), Grillers, Rice Cookers, Rotisseries, Saucepans, Pressure Cookers, Defrosters, Dishwashers, Exhaust Fans, Floor Polishers, Gas Ranges, Hair Clippers, Hair Dryers, Hot Water Systems, Ice Boxes, Infrared Lamps, Irons, Jugs, Juice Extractors, Kettles, Lamps and Light Fittings, Lawn Mowers, Radios, Radiograms, Record Players, Refrigerators, Sewing Machines, Shavers, Stoves, TVs, Tape Recorders, Washing Machines, etc., etc.

COUNTRY MEMBERS COUPON: I would like more information about
NAME
ADDRESS
GERALD'S ELECTRIC 177a Murray St., Perth Tel. 23 4589

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture of W.A." when writing to advertisers
PRICE REDUCTION

THE BASIC PRICE FOR RUMEVITE IS DOWN
(and you can save approximately $3 per ton through the Government nitrogen bounty into the bargain).

SAVE ON URAMOL TOO!
Save $11 per ton through the Government nitrogen bounty.

There's never been a better time to turn poor quality pasture into high performance feed. See your agent today for ICI Rumevite/Uramol.