

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



Dow AgroSciences

HOW TO TREAT

The most cost-effective and practical control technique depends on the scale of the infestation and topography of infested land.

Do not clear in one year more than you will be able to manage in the follow-up program.

1. TREATING ISOLATED PATCHES AND LIMITED INFESTATIONS

Patches of St. John's wort are best treated by spot spraying with Grazon™ Extra Herbicide. Trials undertaken by NSW Agriculture from 1990 to 1994 have shown that products containing picloram and triclopyr give superior control of St. John's wort for up to four years after application.

2. TREATING EXTENSIVE INFESTATIONS ON ARABLE LAND

On arable land, St. John's wort can be controlled by cultivation and cropping to remove it and reduce the seed reserves before sowing a perennial pasture. For long-term control, once the pasture is well established, graze heavily and spot spray any reinfesting St. John's wort with Grazon Extra.

3. TREATING EXTENSIVE INFESTATIONS ON HILL COUNTRY

In hill country, it is not economically feasible to eliminate St. John's wort. In most cases one must learn to live with some wort and therefore livestock and pasture management should be geared to minimise the impact of the weed. Boom application of Grazon Extra or Starane™ Advanced Herbicide along fencelines will help to prevent spread to adjacent paddocks.

FOR BEST RESULTS

For best results, apply high-volume hand spraying at 3000 L/ha to thoroughly wet the foliage of a dense infestation; lower spray volumes (2000 L/ha) will be effective on moderate to sparse infestations. Boom spraying with 200–250 L of water/ha is also effective and aerial application via helicopter is effective for hillside spraying.

Ensure the plant is actively growing (15–50 cm tall), and both the upper-flower canopy and sub-canopy lying prostrate are wet.

Focus on spraying open areas where pasture productivity can be improved by the removal of St. John's wort without damaging remnant vegetation.

TREATMENT TIPS

Avoid treating St. John's wort when:

- The flowers have turned brown
- Insects have eaten most of the leafy material
- The plant is diseased or stressed
- There is physical damage from vehicles
- There is herbicide damage from previous applications.



ST. JOHN'S WORT

(Hypericum perforatum)



ST. JOHN'S WORT (*Hypericum perforatum*)

DESCRIPTION

St. John's wort is a perennial herb that can grow up to 1 m tall. It has stemless small leaves dotted with clear oil glands that have a perforated appearance when held to light. Stems are reddish in colour. Flowers have five yellow petals, three bunches of many stamens. St. John's wort is widespread in pastures, water catchment reserves, forests and national parks and can cause photosensitisation in livestock. It infests large areas of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia and is a serious weed on tablelands and slopes areas as it is most suited to areas receiving more than 600 mm annual rainfall at altitudes of 600 m to 1500 m.

HERBICIDES FOR CONTROL OF ST. JOHN'S WORT

| PRODUCT# | METHOD OF APPLICATION | RATE† | STATE |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grazon™ Extra Herbicide | Foliar spray | 500 mL/100 L of water | All |
| Hotshot™ Herbicide | Foliar spray | 700 mL/100 L of water | All |
| Starane™ Advanced Herbicide | Foliar spray | 300 mL/100 L of water | All |
| Stinger™ Herbicide + Glyphosate 450 | Foliar spray | 20 g + 160 mL/100 L of water + Pulse™ | WA, NSW, SA, Vic |
| Tordon™ 75-D Herbicide | Foliar spray | 500 mL/100 L of water | Qld, ACT, NSW, SA, Vic, WA |
| Grazon Extra | Boom application | 2 to 4 L/ha | ACT, NSW |
| Starane Advanced | Boom application | 1.8 L/ha (200 L water/ha) | All |
| Esteron™ LV Herbicide | Boom application | 3.26 to 4.68 L/ha | NSW, Qld, ACT, WA, Vic |
| Grazon Extra | Controlled droplet application | Apply undiluted | All |
| Grazon Extra | Gas gun application | 500 mL/10 L of water | ACT, NSW, Tas, Vic |
| Grazon Extra | Aerial (helicopter only) | 4 L/ha | ACT, NSW |

Note: Preferred product option in bold. † Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given.

TIMING

Spot spraying is best carried out when St. John's wort is in flower (Nov–Jan) because it can be easily seen then and is at its most sensitive period to herbicides. Spraying should begin six to eight weeks after substantial rain and when St. John's wort reaches the 50% yellow bud – 50% open flower stage.

| PRODUCT | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | KEY |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Grazon Extra | ✗ | ⚙️ | ✓ | ✓ | ⚙️ | ⚙️ | ⚙️ | ⚙️ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Best time to spray/treat ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable ⚙️ |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Do not spray/treat ✗ |



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