

KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

Control Methods For Rhododendron (Ponticum) in Nature Conservation Sites

Stem Treatment



MAKE A DOWNWARD CUT INTO THE CAMBIUM AND SAPWOOD LAYERS USING A SHARP HAND AXE OR SIMILAR IMPLEMENT LEAVING A HINGED NOTCH ON THE PLANT STEM.



STEM NOTCHES SHOULD BE TREATED IMMEDIATELY USING A HAND APPLICATOR, WETTING ALL EXPOSED AREA OF THE NOTCH TO THE RUN OFF POINT. ADD DYE TO HERBICIDE SOLUTION TO INDICATE TREATED STEMS.



STEM NOTCHES SHOULD BE POSITIONED NEAR THE BASE OF EACH STEM AND BELOW THE LAST BRANCH, THIS ALLOWS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF HERBICIDE THROUGH THE PLANTS TRANSPORT SYSTEM.



THE NUMBER OF NOTCHES PER PLANT IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF STEMS AND STEM DIAMETER. TWO CUTS SHOULD BE APPLIED TO STEMS UP TO SEVEN CM IN DIAMETER AND AN ADDITIONAL CUT FOR EACH THREE AND A HALF CM OF STEM DIAMETER.



LEAF DIE-BACK BEGINS 3-4 WEEKS AFTER TREATING PLANTS IN THE GROWING SEASON (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER) AND CAN TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS LONGER OUTSIDE OF THIS PERIOD. PLANT DEATH IS USUALLY COMPLETE WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS OF INITIAL TREATMENT.



BEST RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED IN KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK TRIALS FROM FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER

VOLUME OF HERBICIDE USED IN STEM TREATMENT

CONCENTRATION H ₂ O: GLYPHOSATE	VOLUME HERBICIDE PER STEM (ML)	NUMBER OF STEMS TREATED PER 1L GLYPHOSATE	
5:1 (20%)	0.50	1925	(Successfully trialled in KNP)
10:1 (10%)	0.26	3850	(Successfully trialled in KNP)

ADVANTAGES:

Good kill rate | Minimal herbicide usage | Low volumes of herbicide solution required | No soil disturbance
Minimal risk of herbicide drift | Eliminates brush handling | Can be applied in showery weather
Minimal equipment required | Cost effective

DISADVANTAGES:

Requires mainly dry weather | All plant stems require treatment | Second large scale work phase if dead plants are to be removed
Not suitable for dense stands of multi-stemmed plants or small diameter multi-stemmed plants
Standing dead plants and subsequent litter may pose a fire threat | Standing dead plants may inhibit follow-up management of site

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS:

Access to plant stems | Correct number of notches per stem | Correct application of herbicide

***This Method Is Most Efficient On Single Stem Plants
But Can Also Be Effective On Accessible Multi-stemmed Plants***

For further information contact Peter O'Toole at Killarney National Park :: Phone: 087 6781614.