

The Vegetation Manager

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Note from the CEO



Welcome to the August edition of The Vegetation Manager.

This month features our latest edition of Weed Watch, your alert to new and emerging threats. *Zornia (Zornia latifolia)* is a long-lived creeping plant that grows in lawns, in parks, along footpaths and on roadsides. *Zornia* has already become a troublesome weed in South East Queensland and is likely to continue to spread throughout other parts of Eastern Australia, making it a weed we all need to watch out for!

We are looking forward to hosting the second Vegetation Managers Forum on Tuesday, 21st of September. This forum will feature industry leaders presenting on topics relevant to the needs and interests of vegetation managers. One such speaker is Dr Fred Yelverton from the North Carolina State University. Dr Yelverton is a world renowned turfgrass weed expert and in addition to featuring at the Vegetation Managers Forum, Fred is also a Keynote Speaker at the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand. The forum will feature a group session as well as individual Natural Areas and Turf specific sessions. Be sure to lock this date in your calendar!

We are proud to announce that last month Technigro was announced as one of five Queensland finalists in the 2010 Telstra Business Awards for the Medium Business and Innovation categories. This is our second year as finalists and while we did not take out the top prize, we are extremely proud to be recognised as one of the top businesses in the state.

Last month we were also awarded the Mayors Innovation GC Award and the Environmental Management Award for June in the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards. We look forward to the Gala Presentation in November where the overall category winners will be announced.

Cheers,

Nick Bloor

weed watch

Welcome to Weed Watch, your alert to new and emerging threats. Each month, Dr Sheldon Navie will focus on a new and emerging weed and provide you with details on its appearance and distinguishing features to assist in ID, as well as best practice control methods.



Zornia (Zornia latifolia) is a long-lived creeping plant that grows in lawns, in parks, along footpaths and on roadsides and has already become a troublesome weed on the Gold Coast. Based on its native distribution in America, it is likely to continue to spread and become established throughout the tropical and sub-tropical parts of northern and eastern Australia, making it a weed we all need to watch out for!

Learn more about Pencil Willow by reading our Weed Watch fact sheet on page 3.

Fast Facts

- > Australians spend more than half a billion dollars a year on bottled water.
- > The Department of Environment and Climate Change estimates that 200ml of oil is used to produce, package, transport and refrigerate each litre bottle of bottled water.
- > Australia's annual use of bottled water generates more than 60,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions - the same amount that 13,000 cars generate over the course of a year.

Upcoming Events

- > **Vegetation Managers Forum**
21st September, Radisson Resort, Gold Coast, QLD
- > **17th Australasian Weeds Conference**
26th - 30th September, Christchurch, NZ.
- > **EIANZ Conference**
From Discovery to Delivery - Science, Policy, Leadership, Action
27th - 29th October, Wellington, NZ.

In the news

The second Vegetation Managers Forum is just around the corner!

Technigro is proud to announce the second Vegetation Managers Forum will be held on Tuesday, 21st of September at the Radisson Palm Meadows Resort on the Gold Coast. After the overwhelming success of the first event held in April, Technigro is committed to continuing these exciting events across South East Queensland.

With the aim of growing knowledge and networks, this event will feature several renowned guest speakers. One such speaker is Dr Fred Yelverton from the North Carolina State University. Dr Yelverton is a world renowned turfgrass weed expert and in addition to featuring at the Vegetation Managers Forum, Fred is also the Keynote Speaker at the 17th Australasian Weeds Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand. Learn more about Dr Yelverton [here](#).

The forum will also feature, among others, the following guest speakers:

- Andrew Hewitt - Senior Research Fellow, University of Queensland
- Ian McConnell - Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI)
- Ashley Neuendorf - Queensland State Manager, Nuturf Australia

These featured speakers will share their knowledge and expertise as they discuss the problematic issues currently facing the vegetation management industry.

Invitations will be released shortly however if you would be interested in attending this event, please contact Lucy on lucy.clark@technigro.com.au.

Technigro wins Environmental Management Award!

Last month, Technigro was announced as the winner of the Environmental Management Award and the Mayors Innovation GC Award in the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards for June. This is the first time in 15 years that a company has won 2 categories in the one month. Technigro has been a previous recipient of the Mayors Innovation GC Award however we are extremely excited to be recognised for our environmental achievements this year.



The Environmental Management Award recognises businesses that have implemented good environmental practices in their business operations. The Awards seek to reward those who have taken the initiative to find better ways to assist in managing our precious environment.

Technigro is committed to undertaking work in the most environmentally friendly manner possible and much of our R&D work is based around achieving this key objective.

Our R&D facility has resulted in a number of environmentally friendly innovations that ensure we have minimal impact on the environment. These innovations include the EcoWash® system, our vehicle and equipment wash facility that cleans and recycles contaminated water, and our DriftProof® shielded sprayers which eliminate spray drift when treating public open spaces. We are always looking for new and improve ways of doing things and several more innovations are currently under development which will offer more environmentally friendly methods of vegetation management.

In addition to this, Technigro's Environmental Management System is designed to continually reduce the likelihood of an adverse environmental incident occurring. Technigro is committed to continually improving practices so that they have less impact on the environment and are more ecologically and environmentally sustainable.

We look forward to the Gala Presentation to be held in November where the overall winners will be announced.

Technigro is also proud to have recently been announced as finalist in the 2010 Queensland Telstra Business Awards for the Panasonic Medium Business and AMP Innovation categories. This is the second year the company has been named as finalists for these categories. Up against some stiff competition from hundreds of high calibre entrants, Technigro is pleased to have been named as one of only five finalists for each of these extremely prestigious award categories. We extend our warm congratulations to Abacus AL and Signmanager Pty Ltd who took out the awards and wish them well in the national awards.



It's that time of the year

Amendments & Fertilising



Get your grass growing!

Soil amendments and fertilising help to get your grass growing. When applied correctly these products will greatly improve the vigour and health of your turf, ensuring it has the best chance to resist the stresses of drought, wear and weed infestation. To learn more about how Technigro can help you with this important turf management process, read our Amendment and Fertilising fact sheet on page 5 or call us on 1800 678 611.



1. Creeping stems and very broad lower leaves. 2. Yellow flowers with reddish markings. 3. Close-up of segmented fruit with bristles. 4. Infestation in a lawn.



Zornia (*Zornia latifolia*)

Introduced

Not Declared

Zornia is a long-lived creeping plant that grows in lawns, in parks, along footpaths and on roadsides. It is native to tropical America and is sometimes cultivated as a pasture plant or grown for its hallucinogenic properties.

Distribution

This plant was detected growing in mown areas at Paradise Point, on the Gold Coast, about five years ago. It has since been recorded from other parts of the Gold Coast, including Runaway Bay, Helensvale and Bilinga, and seems to be spreading rapidly. There is also evidence that it may have been naturalised in coastal northern Queensland for much longer, including a specimen collected from the Tully district in 1979.

Description

Zornia is a low-growing plant with a woody taproot and short-lived creeping stems 20-50 cm long. It usually dies back to the rootstock during winter, producing new stems and leaves in spring and summer, and flowers and fruit in autumn. Each of the alternately arranged leaves has two leaflets, which are 1-4 cm long. The leaves at the base of the stems are quite broad and become progressively narrower along the branches.

The small flowers are produced in elongated clusters at the tips of the branches, with up to 35 flowers per cluster. There is a small green leafy structure (up to 15 mm long) at the base of each of the pea-shaped flowers. These yellow flowers (up to 10 mm long) are usually marked with reddish lines. The fruit are small jointed pods that are made up of 2-8 segments. Each of the rounded segments (2-3 mm long) is covered with numerous tiny bristles and contains a single seed.

Quick Facts

- > Low-growing plant with a woody taproot and short-lived creeping stems.
- > Leaves have two leaflets and are quite broad on young stems.
- > Small yellow flowers with reddish markings in autumn.
- > Small segmented pods covered with tiny bristles.

Habitat

Zornia is usually seen growing along footpaths, in lawns, in parks and in other mown areas in coastal districts. It has also been recorded growing in disturbed sites, along roadsides and in gardens. In its native habitat in America, Zornia grows in open woodlands and grasslands.





1. Habit in flower in autumn. 2. Exposed woody rootstock.

Reproduction and Dispersal

This species only reproduces by seed. As it often grows in lawns and other mown areas, it is most probably dispersed as a result of mowing activities (for example, in clippings or on contaminated equipment). Its bristly seed-pods may also become attached to animals, vehicles, shoes and clothing.

Why is it an Emerging Threat?

Zornia has quickly become a troublesome weed of lawns and other mown areas on the Gold Coast. Based on its native distribution in America, it is likely to continue to spread and become established throughout the tropical and sub-tropical parts of northern and eastern Australia. It has also become a weed in tropical western Africa, where it occurs in gardens and lawns, on roadsides and airfields, and in savannas.

Control Methods

Individual specimens can be removed manually although it is advisable in hard, dry soil conditions to loosen the soil first before applying any force. Ensure all of the root system remains intact during removal. While working in infested areas that contain plants with seed pods present, check and remove any plant material that may have become attached to yourself or your equipment prior to leaving the area. If mowing has to be carried-out while fruits/seed pods are present, collect all clippings if possible and dispose of them in a sanitary manner.

While no chemicals are currently registered for the control of *Zornia latifolia*, research has shown that this species along with other *Zornia* spp. can easily be controlled using a range of herbicides. This information can be viewed at http://www.tropicalforages.info/key/Forages/Media/Html/Zornia_latifolia.htm. Selective control can be obtained in lawns and grassed areas using a range of products including 2,4-D or Triclopyr as well as other broadleaf herbicides.

Within Queensland, the use of 2,4-D or Triclopyr formulations is permitted for the spot spraying of environmental weeds such as *Zornia latifolia* in non-crop situations via off-label permit 11463 (<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11463.PDF>). Before applying this method of control within other state boundaries, it is recommended that all operators consult any relevant permits or government legislation.

The control methods referred to in Weed Watch™ should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, Technigro does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

This information has been developed with the assistance of Dr Sheldon Navie. Photographs are also courtesy of Dr Navie. © Technigro Australia Pty Ltd 2010

Look a-likes

Zornia is very similar to several closely related native species including *Zornia dyctiophylla*, which is occasionally a weed of lawns and other mown areas. However, *Zornia dyctiophylla* has narrower leaves and its flowers are widely spaced along the stems. Its fruit also lack obvious bristles, though they may have some small bristly hairs.



Top. Habit with narrower leaves.

Bottom. Fruit lacking any obvious bristles.

Your Provider of Vegetation Management Solutions

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Gold Coast: 2-10 Rudman Parade, Andrews, QLD, 4220

Post: PO Box 2038, Burleigh BC, QLD, 4220

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SOIL AMENDMENT & FERTILISER SPREADING



Soil amendments and fertiliser greatly improve the vigour and health of turf grass when correctly scheduled into a proactive management program. The application of soil amendments and fertiliser is a crucial component of any turf management program as it provides the desirable species with the nutrition required to stay healthy and out-compete the undesirable weed species.

The use of our quad mounted spreading equipment is perfect for the application of soil amendments and granular fertilisers due to their lightweight nature, eliminating surface damage and compaction issues.

Accuracy is assured through the use of a foam marking system, eliminating the costly wastage of product and uneven growth patterns due to missed areas or overlapping applications.

Benefits

- > Highly accurate and uniform application
- > Lightweight and suitable to go on any class of turf
- > Manoeuvrable with safe 360 degree vision
- > Low centre of gravity for maximum stability when working on uneven terrain
- > Safe operation with highly visible safety lighting and signage utilised
- > Ability to accurately and efficiently spread all granular amendments
- > Low sided hopper for easy filling and reduced risk of product wastage
- > Time efficient application ensures large programs can be completed quickly
- > Versatility in applications over a wide range of products and situations

Application

Our experienced team specialise in the precision application of all granular products using quad mounted spreading equipment. This includes combination products such as Ronstar + Starter or Pre M that allow the application of a pre-emergent weed barrier whilst applying fertiliser to the area being treated.

Technigro recommend conducting a soil test prior to amendment application to accurately identify and rectify soil deficiencies. This information is used in the development of an effective soil amendment and nutrition program that will ensure your turf is receiving the nutrition it requires all year round.

Our specialist Turf Services Team is available to support Turf Managers with every aspect of their turf management program from soil testing through to program development and service delivery. Contact us today to see how we can help you.

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for **smarter** solutions