

The Vegetation Manager

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Note from the CEO



Our purpose at Technigro, or put another way, why we are here, is “to change the way vegetation is managed in Australia, forever”. Our purpose means we are constantly striving to find new and better ways. This may be a product with less active ingredient per hectare, a safer work method process, or simply a better way to keep our customers up to date.

In this month's edition of TVM we are proud to announce Weed Watch by UQ's Dr Sheldon Navie. Each month Weed Watch will feature a weed that is topical or newsworthy... it could be a new or emerging threat, a sleeper weed or one that has hit the headlines for some reason. As well as including images and distinguishing features to assist in ID, Weed Watch will also feature best practice control methods. I hope that you find Weed Watch a useful tool in your day to day work.

Also in this month's edition is an article on Technigro's Quality & Safety Officers. Our Q&S team are an essential part of our Quality and WH&S programs at Technigro and their work is pivotal to ensuring the work we do is carried out safely and to our consistently high standards. I hope you find this of interest.

In closing I would like to congratulate our team on the superb work that they have done throughout the year. At Technigro we recognise that our people are our greatest asset and I look forward to acknowledging their standout performances at our Annual Awards Day on Saturday 12th December.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in 2009. It has been an honour to partner with you throughout the year and we look forward to our ongoing association in the coming year.

Kind regards, Nick



Technigro would like to wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas shared with family and friends. We look forward to catching up with you in 2010.



Welcome to Weed Watch, our newest addition to The Vegetation Manager. Each month, Dr Sheldon Navie from the University of Queensland will identify a weed that is topical or newsworthy and provide you with details on its appearance and distinguishing features to assist in ID, as well as best practice control methods.

Dr Sheldon Navie has a significant amount of scientific knowledge in the fields of plant ecology, weed biology, and grass taxonomy and identification and Technigro is proud of partner with him in presenting Weed Watch.

Dr Navie is based at the School of Land, Crop and Food Sciences at the St.Lucia campus of The University of Queensland, where he completed his PhD on the biology of parthenium weed. He has since undertaken various roles at the University in collaboration with numerous internal and external organisations. This has included teaching plant and weed identification

to undergraduate students, the supervision of higher degree students researching the biology and management of weed species, and the development of interactive teaching tools for undergraduate students and the wider community.

The most significant outputs of his work to date are a range of interactive weed identification CD's and DVD's using the Lucid software system. These products, including Environmental Weeds of Australia and Declared Plants of Australia, were developed in conjunction with the Centre for Biological Information Technology (CBIT) and other organisations (e.g. the CRC for Australian Weed Management).

In recent years, Dr Navie's expertise has also been utilised by Biosecurity Queensland, Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Herbarium on projects involving the profiling and risk assessment of weed species.

In the News: Growing capability

Hydrophobic soil



The seasonality of vegetation management means that demand typically peaks during the Summer 'growing season'. 12 months ago we set ourselves the goal of expanding our capacity, ready for this year's Summer growing season. Our objective was to ensure that Technigro has the necessary capacity to meet our customers' needs at all times throughout the year, regardless of seasonal fluctuations.

This focus has seen us significantly expand our capacity over the past year, with additional QuikSpray 4WD units for invasive weed management and additional DriftProof quad sprayers for sports turf applications. We have also expanded our Road Network resources with in-house traffic control and nightwork vehicles, giving us full 24 hour capability. Supplementing this has been an expansion in our small plant store of brushcutters, chainsaws and landscape maintenance equipment.

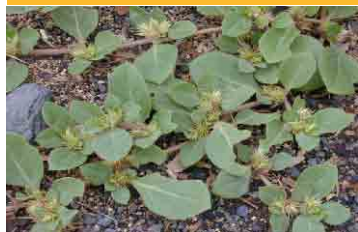
These additional resources mean that we have the latest gear at the ready, to do your work now. So give us a call on 1800 678 611 and one of our team will be proud to demonstrate what our growing capability can do for you.



Top : Nightwork vehicles
Above: Landscape maintenance

It's that time of the year

Khaki Weed



Get ready for Khaki season

Khaki spreads readily, thanks to its many sharp burrs, which attach to animals and motor vehicles. The same burrs are a problem for many members of the community, particularly during Summer. January is the perfect time to target this problem weed. For more information on Khaki read our Fact Sheet on page 3 or call us on 1800 678 611

In the News: Introducing our Quality & Safety Officers

Q&S Officers



Above: Quality & Safety Officer Vehicle

We have introduced Quality and Safety Officers; preferably known as Q&S Officers into our organisational structure.

Our Officers are fully trained & experienced, which enables them to carry out one of the most important roles within the company. They are responsible for the Quality & Safety of all field activities within their area of Operations. Their role is to ensure every individual job is treated safely, & to the highest standard every time.

As soon as a new Team Member joins the company, they are trained one-on-one to ensure full understanding of safety & field operational requirements. This is continually checked on and reported through a number of reports.

Every Q&S Officer is responsible to complete the following reports every week:

- Team Assessment Team
- Leader Assessment
- Team Member Assessment
- Quality & Safety Reports (75% of all completed jobs)
- Individual training

The introduction of our Quality & Safety Officers ensures our reporting system is continually up-to-date, our staff are fully trained and ensures we safely deliver exceptional results on time, every time.

Fast Facts

- > There are more than 1,000 animal species endangered worldwide
- > In 2004, 15,589 species faced extinction worldwide
- > The natural rate of extinction is one species every 100 years

Upcoming Events

- > **Technigro Annual Awards**
Saturday, 12th December
- > **Christmas Day**
Friday, 25th December

KHAKI WEED

Alternanthera pungens



Description & Lifestyle

A low-lying, creeping perennial, Khaki weed is widespread throughout Queensland & many other parts of Australia, including northern NSW and the Northern Territory

Khaki weed spreads readily, thanks to its many sharp burrs, which attach to animals and motor vehicle tyres. The same burrs are a problem for picnickers and people who like walking around in bare feet!

This native of South America has a deep, carrot-like taproot, up to 12mm in diameter and 100mm long. Roots form at the stem and nodes allow it to form a thick mat.

Key features

- > The sharp burrs can be a real nuisance during summer and autumn.
- > Forming a thick mat, Khaki weed invades parks, ovals and other public open spaces.
- > A deep taproot makes it difficult to control.

Leaves are up to 5cm long, oval-shaped with pointed tips, in unequal opposite pairs. Stems are up to 500mm long, branched and reddish purple, covered with short, soft hairs.

Flowers are very small, in the axils of leaves, surrounded by fine, straw-coloured, sharply pointed burrs. The flowers emit a pungent odour, hence the species name "pungens".

Khaki weed reproduces readily from its large quantities of seed, roots and stems-nodes taking root. Seeds are viable for many years and germinate after spring or summer rains. Flowering and seeding occurs in summer and autumn, accompanied by the sharp prickle-like burrs which can pierce the skin.

Control

1. Small infestations can be dug out or removed by hand (with gloves), prior to seeding.
2. Consider the use of a pre-emergent herbicide to break the plant's life cycle, in situations where Khaki weed has built up significant populations.
3. Large infestations in ovals & other grass areas require the application of a selective herbicide, suitable for the particular grass species. Khaki weed seedlings are susceptible to a range of selective herbicide formulations and to achieve the best results, Technigro recommends that applications be made while the weeds are young and actively growing and prior to the plant producing seed.

Your Provider of Vegetation Management Solutions

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