

# The Vegetation Manager

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## Message from the CEO

Welcome to the first edition of The Vegetation Manager, Technigro's e-newsletter designed to offer you interesting and useful information about innovations, vegetation management tips, upcoming events, news on the industry and Technigro as well as advice from guest columnists.

Technigro is a vegetation management company specialising in the programmed management of natural areas, parks & gardens, road networks and sports turf in South East Queensland. We aim to lower the net cost of managing public open spaces by partnering with our customers to deliver smarter vegetation management solutions. Once again, welcome to the first edition of TVM and I look forward to catching up with you again next month.

Kind regards, Nick Bloor.

## It's that time of the year.

### Bindii Weed



### Control Bindii weeds before the burrs form.

Did you know Bindii (*Soliva pterosperma*) can re-emerge after an initial treatment? That's why we recommend a proactive approach to treatment in late Autumn. Experience shows that customers who have targeted Bindii with Spearhead at the right times of year have fewer complaints and are less likely to need follow up treatments during the same season. Once the burrs have formed, it is too late. For more information phone 1800 678 611 or find our Bindii factsheet on our website.

### Crowsfoot



### Start treating Crowsfoot now.

Crowsfoots (*Eluesine indica*) is a common weed of lawns and playing fields and competes aggressively with turf species. Pre-emergent and post emergent controls are available for treatment of this aggressive weed. For more information phone 1800 678 611 or find our Crowsfoot factsheet on our website.

## Upcoming Events.

- > **GCCC IVMP Vegetation Managers Forum**  
Thursday 11th June at the Bayer Training Facility
- > **10th Queensland Weed Symposium**  
26th – 30th July at Capricorn Resort, Yeppoon QLD
- > **Focus Group Meeting with Dr Fred Yelverton for Technigro Customers**  
19 August, Brisbane
- > **Vegetation Managers Forum with Dr Fred Yelverton**  
20 August, Brisbane
- > **Vegetation Managers Forum with Dr Fred Yelverton**  
25 August, Sydney

## Innovation updates.

### Protect & Strengthen



### Potassium Silica can protect & strengthen your turf.

During the busy Winter sports season, sports turf often suffers damage when subjected to the pressures of high usage when turf is not actively growing. This damage makes the turf far more susceptible to disease and weeds. To learn more about how Potassium Silica applications can help strengthen and protect your turf call Dan Norton our Turf Services Manager on 0403 047 701 or find our Turf Toughening fact sheet on our website.

### IVMP



### Integrated Vegetation Management Project (IVMP).

The Intergrated Vegetation Management Project (IVMP) is a collaborative research project that will be conducted in Australia from Dec 2007 to Dec 2010. This project will draw on current knowledge and practice, both nationally and internationally, to evaluate and confirm best practice methods in resolving specific vegetation management issues in Australia.

#### The main project objectives are the development of:

- > A sustainable model for managing mown vegetation in public open spaces (including roadsides)
- > Proven strategies for improving the quality of the managed areas
- > Proven strategies for the cost effective management of mixed species
- > Cost effective management strategies for areas populated by predominately undesirable grasses

An overall increase in environmental knowledge and regulation, coupled with an ever increasing focus on safety, has prompted the implementation of current vegetation management methods that are responsive but often prohibitively costly.

These current practices are not sustainable. Mowing is costly, dangerous, time consuming, needs to be repeated often and has lead to weed seed dispersal increasing management costs. Such high-cost, intensive vegetation management activities have in many cases, exhausted the limited available resources (labour, equipment, and materials), especially at seasonal growth peaks during the busiest times of the year.

A need for greater knowledge about effectively managing vegetation, concerns about the potential off-target effects of herbicides and an understanding of the economic benefits of stabilising desirable plant communities, have prompted the decision to undertake this collaborative research and development project.

The outcomes realised in this IVMP will integrate vegetation management decision-making processes into vegetation management planning, design, construction, and maintenance. The expected benefits include a more economical and sustainable vegetation management model.

The project will be based on current practices in Australia, a review of the literature on IVMP's from international sources and scientific study combined with practical field trials to identify the most appropriate vegetation management practices in a range of mown vegetation environments.

The overriding strategic aim of the IVMP process is the sustainable management of all classifications of mown vegetation and the improvement of undesirable species composition to that of a desirable, more manageable species composition.

The IVPM project will trial integrated strategies using selected plant growth regulators, herbicides and nutrition, in combination with mowing and other activities, to determine what combination of activities best suits the species composition present in each classification.

Project results will be made available to partners at the end of each year, for the duration of the project life. Progress reporting will be delivered on a quarterly basis during the Quarterly Project Review Meeting.

Budget allocations for the three year life cycle of the IVMP have been committed to the value of \$481,284 over the three year project life cycle. Funding has been committed by Technigro Pty Ltd, Sydney Environmental, Brisbane City Council and Gold Coast City Council. Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL) is to provide funding on a dollar for dollar basis for the project trial work. With the current level of in-kind support, funding for this project will exceed \$800,000.

For more information about this exciting project go to [www.IVMP.com.au](http://www.IVMP.com.au)



# Technigro news.

## Protect & Strengthen



## Technigro finalist in Family Business Of The Year Award.

Technigro was recently entered into Family Business Australia's Business of the Year Awards and was nominated as one of only three Queensland finalists. These awards recognise family businesses and celebrate their achievements and contribution to our life, economy and culture.

With three generations and four members of the Bloor family actively involved with the business, Technigro was entered into the second generation category. The judging was based around business history, values and family business best practices. The submission covered issues such as family members in managerial positions; communication, governance and outside advice; planning; business continuity and succession and good corporate citizenship.

It was announced during the awards ceremony that Technigro was not only a finalist, but also considered by the judges to be a very strong contender for this year's awards. After

20 plus years in the business, Technigro is proud of its unblemished track record and the enviable level of public acceptance it has achieved over the years; something previous considered unattainable in an industry plagued by problems and a poor public image. The fact that Technigro has pioneered the way with innovative new equipment and methods that have since gone on to become accepted as industry best practice is now a matter of record. This unrelenting pursuit of excellence has assisted Technigro to achieve its current status as the market leaders within in its area of operations and one of the finalists for this prestigious award.

Up against some stiff competition, Technigro was pleased to have made the final three. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Taylor Family whose building services company took out the award. They were deserving winners and we wish them well as they progress to the national judging stage in Darwin later in the year.



The Technigro team in the early 1990's



The Technigro team in 2008

## Introducing The Vegetation Manager.

Technigro are pleased to announce the launch of their new e- newsletter, The Vegetation Manager, which coincides with the launch of the new Technigro website.

The Vegetation Manager is a monthly release providing the reader with information about upcoming events, innovation, news on the industry and what's happening at Technigro, vegetation management tips and expert advice from a guest columnist.

Stage 1 went live on the 30th May 2009 and represents a complete revamp of the previous website. It provides the user with comprehensive information on Technigro's services, technologies, galleries, media centre and insight into the company's core values and ideologies.

Stage 2 is schedules for completion in the near future and will include a secure customer and

employee portal. Within this portal, customers and other users will be able to access work schedules by area; work schedules for roads, parks and sports fields; work plans with status indicators; and quality standard reports related to specific jobs.

Eventually, Technigro envisages customers will be able to make requests, view and accept quotes, and book work online through this secure portal. This will enable them to track their work via reports and uploaded photos taken at the time the work is being carried out. As part of our future vision, this ultra modern on-line facility will create ease in booking, monitoring and signing off completed work, making your life and ours much easier!

Please explore our website and be sure to keep your eye out for the July edition of The Vegetation Manager!



### Your Provider of Vegetation Management Solutions

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