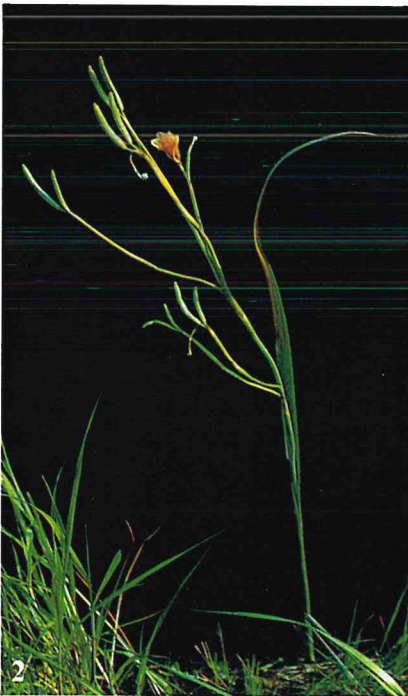


CAPE TULIP



Two species of Cape tulip are serious weeds in Western Australia. They are commonly called one-leaf Cape tulip and two-leaf Cape tulip. Both species can over-run pasture land, greatly reducing the carrying capacity of the pasture. Cape tulip is poisonous to stock, but animals used to grazing infested paddocks are seldom affected because they avoid eating the plants. Severe losses can occur among stock turned into a Cape tulip paddock for the first time. Cape tulip was originally distributed as a garden plant before its potential as a weed was realised. Cape tulip is a declared plant (noxious weed) in Western Australia.

(continued overleaf)

1. Two-leaf Cape Tulip
2. One-leaf Cape Tulip
3. Two-leaf Cape Tulip corms and cormils



CAPE TULIP

Description:

One-leaf Cape tulip has a single grass-like leaf 30 cm or more high, whereas two-leaf has two or more leaves.

The salmon pink flowers of the two species are similar, but those of two-leaf are slightly smaller and more numerous. Only one-leaf Cape tulip sets seed. The seeds are brown, irregularly shaped, about 1.5 mm long. They can easily be spread in fodder or on stock.

Both species are perennial plants which reproduce from underground

corms. One or more new corms form on top of the old corm every year and it is from these that next year's parent plant develops.

Two-leaf Cape tulip also reproduces from numerous small corms which form around the corm. Other corms appear above ground, in the angles between the leaves and the stem.

The corms of one-leaf Cape tulip are covered with brown fibrous material, whereas two-leaf corms and their surrounding corms have a much harder, dark covering.

The corms of both species and the corms of two-leaf Cape tulip can be dormant in the soil for several years.

Sometimes half or more of the corms do not germinate but remain viable to emerge in future years.

This dormancy makes Cape tulip a difficult weed to control, but it can be done if a planned programme is followed. Prompt action is essential to kill isolated patches of Cape tulip to prevent the weed getting established in new areas.

For information on Cape tulip control contact the Agriculture Protection Board: Telephone Perth 367 0111 or any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.