

Agriculture Protection Board
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SIDA



1. Mature Plant 2. Infestation 3. Seedling 4. Seeds

SIDA

S^{IDA} (*Sida spp.*) is a member of the Mallow family (Malvaceae). Probably originating in America, Sida is now found throughout the warm regions of the world. Three species—*Sida Acuta*, *S. cordifolia* and *S. rhombifolia* are declared noxious weeds in the Northern Territory. However only *S. acuta* appears to present a major weed problem.

A subspecies of *S. acuta* has been identified in the Kimberley district of W.A. but has not yet caused major problems.

Sida is a weed of tropical pastures. When native pastures are improved by superphosphate and seeding with pasture legumes such as Townsville Stylo, Sida rapidly infests overgrazed areas near troughs and underneath shade trees. As soil nitrogen builds

up under legume pasture Sida spreads over the paddock competing with more palatable pasture species.

Description:

Sida is a sparsely branched annual shrub up to 1.5 metres tall with fibrous stems. It has light green, slightly concave oval leaves with a shiny surface and toothed margins. The flowers are yellow, inconspicuous and borne on short stalks (peduncles) in leaf axils. The calyx and petals are five lobed, joined at the base. The fruit is dark brown; it splits into six to ten single seeds with two sharp awns at the top of each seed.

Ecology:

Sida is found on most soil types except some of those derived from limestone and seasonally flooded clays. It flowers towards the end of the wet season (February-April) and

may be dispersed on the coats of cattle, sheep and horses or in hay or soil. The seed capsule is sticky and when ruptured, releases seeds with characteristic double awns. Viable seeds have been found in the faeces of horses, but not of cattle.

Sida will survive for several years if slashed or highly disturbed so long as sufficient moisture is present. Sida does not compete well with perennial grass or climbing legume pastures such as Calopo.

For information on Sida recognition and control contact the Agriculture Protection Board, Jarrah Road, South Perth, Western Australia 6151. Telephone (09) 367 0111 or any country office of the APB or the Department of Agriculture.