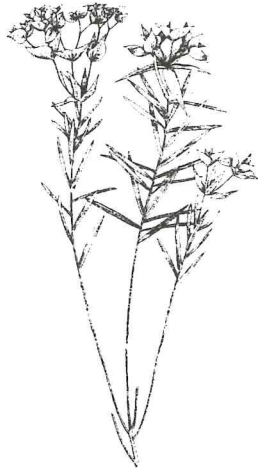


## GERALDTON CARNATION WEED CONTROL



Geraldton carnation weed (*Euphorbia terracina*) is found on poor sandy soils. It is usually associated with limestone and is often found near the coast of WA from Geraldton to Esperance.

It is usually confined to vacant lots, disturbed urban areas and coastal dunes where competition from other plant species is limited. It rarely occurs in cultivated situations.

Geraldton carnation weed is a deep rooted perennial plant, reproducing entirely from seed. It makes most of its growth in winter and spring, forming seeds in early summer.

Heavy grazing of the weed has caused stock poisoning in other states, but only rarely. The weed is of little significance to agriculture.

A sticky white latex exudes from stems when broken. This may cause eye irritation and even temporary blindness in children playing on infested lots.

Geraldton carnation weed is an erect leafy herb, often found growing in dense stands. The stems are fleshy and reddish. The leaves are carried directly on the stems, without stalks. They are hairless, pale green and narrow, up to six centimetres long with teeth-like lobes near the apex.

The flowers are found in spring, they are yellow and inconspicuous because they are surrounded with fleshy green, pointed oval bracts. The fruit is smooth and small, about five millimetres long. They have three lobes and contain numerous seeds.

### Control

#### Cultivation and grubbing

Usually effective. Development of pastures, lawns and gardens will quickly replace the weed with more competitive and useful plants.

#### Chemical control

Amitrole (320 g/litre) + atrazine (320 g/litre) (e.g Vorox AA®)

+ 2, 4-D amine (500 g/litre)

KNAPSACK: 2 ml of amitrole/atrazine mix + 2 ml of 2, 4-D amine per litre of water. Add 1.5 ml of wetting agent per litre of water.

BOOMSPRAY OR HANDLANCE: 2 litres of the amitrole/atrazine mix + 2 litres of 2, 4-D amine in at least 100 litres of water per hectare. Add 1.5 ml of wetting agent per litre of water.

The recommended chemical treatment for non-agricultural areas. Most effective on young plants. Apply in winter or early spring. Take care to avoid damage to adjacent desirable plants.

Garlon 600\*

KNAPSACK: 3 ml per litre of water.

BOOMSPRAY OR HANDLANCE: 3 litres per ha.

An alternative treatment for older plants. Do not add wetting agent.

Glean\*

KNAPSACK: 0.02g per litre of water. (0.3g in 15 litre knapsack sprayer).

BOOMSPRAY OR HANDLANCE: 15g per ha.

Effective on younger plants when applied in winter

Sprayseed® paraquat 100g/litre + diquat 100g/litre

KNAPSACK: 1.5 ml per litre

BOOMSPRAY OR HANDLANCE: 1.5 litres per hectare.

Very effective on younger plants

Glyphosate(420g/litre)

KNAPSACK: One part to 10 of water

Worth trying on plants which have begun flowering and are too mature to respond to the other treatments

Ally® or Brushoff®

BOOMSPRAY OR HANDLANCE: 3-5g/ha + 2,4-D or MCPA 0.5 to 1.0 litres/ha

Very effective, but will damage legumes. Check the restricted spraying regulations before using the 2,4-D or MCPA mixtures.

### Further Information

For advice in drawing up a Geraldton carnation weed control programme for your property con-

tact your nearest Agriculture Protection Board district officer.