



Creeping knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*)

Family : Asteraceae
Form : Herbaceous – Perennial
Status : Present in WA

Native from eastern Europe to Mongolia; also known as Russian Knapweed, and Hardhead Thistle. An erect perennial herb growing 40-100 cm high and reproducing from creeping roots or seed.

Spread by seed and rhizomes. Winter dormant. Seedlings form rosettes in spring, develop a deep root system, and flower the following summer. Plants spread by creeping roots and often forming large colonies. Weed of horticultural and cereal crops, roadsides and wasteland.

Stems : Branched, young stems covered with dense soft grey hairs

Leaves : Rosette leaves are silvery green when young, greyish green later and slightly hairy, 15 cm long and 2-5 cm wide, toothed and irregularly lobed on older rosette leaves. Stem leaves are similar to rosette leaves on the lower stem, but are shorter on the upper stem, are not carried on short stalks, only slightly toothed and are arranged alternately along the stem.

Flowers : Flower-heads are to 2.5 cm diameter, borne singly at the end of branches. Made up of purple, lilac or pink florets, rarely white. Bracts surrounding the flower heads are broad, white and papery thin with dense hairs at the tips.

Seed : Ivory white, sometimes mottled, egg shaped 3-4 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, with a pappus of stiff barbed hairs ranging from one half to twice the length of the seed.



Declaration

Category : P1, P3

Location : For the whole of the State.

Standard Control Codes (these may vary for individual plants)

<p>P1 REQUIREMENTS Prohibits movement</p>	<p>Introduction of the plant or their seeds into, or movement within the declared area is prohibited.</p>
<p>P3 REQUIREMENTS Aims to control infestation by reducing area and/or density of infestation</p>	<p>The infested area must be managed in such a way that reduces the extent/distribution and/or density of the declared plant within the infested property. The infested area must be managed to prevent the spread of seeds or plant parts within and from the property on or in livestock, fodder, grain, vehicles and/or machinery Treatment must be done prior to seed set each year.</p>

Control Method

Recommended herbicides	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clopyralid • Amitrole • Picloram + 2,4-D
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Herbicide	:	Clopyralid (various trade names - AVPMA site)
Active ingredient and Group	:	300 g clopyralid as the tri isopropanolamine salt (Group I) Also a 750 g/kg formulation available
Rate of product per hectare	:	4 L/ha
Time of application	:	September to April on actively growing plants
Wetting agent	:	Add at recommended rate as per label
Remarks	:	If plants are small lightly graze the area first to reduce pasture and expose the weed. Allow about 7 days for the weed to recover before spraying. Thorough coverage is essential; apply in a volume of not less than 200 L of water/ha. This treatment will affect the regeneration of legumes for at least 12 months.
More information	:	Spot spraying is also recommended at 500 mL/100 L of water, also with the addition of a wetting agent

Herbicide	:	Clopyralid (various trade names - AVPMA site)
Active ingredient and Group	:	750 g/kg clopyralid potassium salt (Group I)
Rate of product per hectare	:	1.6 kg
Time of application	:	September to April on actively growing plants
Wetting agent	:	Add at recommended rate as per label
Remarks	:	If plants are small lightly graze the area first to reduce pasture and expose the weed. Allow about 7 days for the weed to recover before spraying. This treatment will affect the regeneration of legumes for at least 12 months.
More information	:	Thorough coverage is essential; apply in a volume of not less than 200 L of water/ha
And other control measures	:	Spot spraying is also recommended at 20 g/10 L of water, also with the addition of a wetting agent.

Herbicide	:	Amitrole T, Weedeath
Active ingredient	:	250 g/L amitrole + 220 ammonium thiocyanate (Group F)
Rate of product	:	1.1 L/100 L water
Wetting agent	:	Add recommended product @ 55 mL/15 L water for knapsack spraying
Time of application	:	When plants are actively growing, just prior to flowering.
Remarks	:	Respraying will be necessary.

Herbicide	:	Picloram (various trade names - AVPMA site)
Active ingredient and Group	:	300 g/L 2,4-D and 75 g/L picloram present as tri isopropanolamine salts (Group I)
Rate of product per hectare	:	7.5 L
Time of application	:	During late spring to summer
Remarks	:	This treatment will affect the regeneration of legumes for at least 12 months.
And other control measures	:	Also spot spraying treatment of 2 L/100 L water



Other relevant information related to this topic:

- [Quarantine WA](#)
- [Permitted and quarantine species list](#)
- [Creeping Knapweed \(Farmnote 42/00\)](#)
- [Off-label permit of a registered agvet chemical product](#)
(Declared plants: Permit number – per13236)
- [Off-label permit \(olp\) for use of a registered agvet chemical product](#)
(Environmental weeds: Permit number – per13333)