

Skeleton Weed Program 2019/20

Search Protocols

Full Search: Code 1 & Code 3 paddocks	
1	Ensure the paddock being searched has been free of livestock 4 weeks before the search.
2	Prior to searching the paddock, review the stubble type and density in order to determine speed and search swath.
3	Ensure the search is conducted using only elevated cab diesel powered vehicles.
4	If the search is conducted using a search machine, ensure there are at least 3 searchers (including the driver).
5	Ensure the speed of a search vehicle is appropriate to the conditions and does not exceed 15km/h in a standard 4WD, tray back vehicle (i.e.: Toyota Landcruiser), or 20km/h if using a search machine or large 4WD vehicle (i.e.: Ford F250 or larger).
6	Ensure the search swath is appropriate to the paddock conditions and does not exceed: (a) (a) 5 metres – if 1 person in the vehicle (b) 15 metres – if 2 or more persons in the vehicle (c) 20 metres – search conducted using a search machine (d) staggered at 20 metre intervals – more than one search vehicle in the paddock
Nb	Searching at 15km/h at 15 metre swaths will cover 22.5ha/h Searching at 20km/h at 15 metre swaths will cover 30ha/h Searching at 20km/h at 20 metre swaths will cover 40ha/h
7	If plants are found: (a) stop and search the immediate area on foot, (b) clearly mark all the plants with flagging tape, drums, spears or steel posts in a “ square ” with a 20 metre buffer around each plant or clumps of plants (refer to Diagrams 1 and 2), (c) clearly mark infestations on a farm map, and (d) record the plant growth stage (i.e. rosette, flowering etc).
8	If there are any flowering plants, either: (a) cut and bag the plants; or (b) treat the plants to prevent the production of viable seed.
9	When the search of the paddock is complete, move to exit point and clean the vehicle.
Nb.	Where flowering plants have been found in paddocks, it is vital that the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned. You must ensure plant material from the searched land is not carried into any other land particularly if used for agricultural purposes.
10	Record the results of the search onto an “Infested Property Paddock Records” sheet and notify DPIRD and/or LAG of the search results

Important

- All searching must be conducted to minimise the risk of fire.
- A firefighting unit should be present when searching.
- Paddock records need to be returned to DPIRD and/or your LAG by 15 February.

Surveillance Search: Code 2 and Code 5 paddocks

1	Ensure the paddock being searched has been free of livestock for 4 weeks before the search.
2	Prior to searching the paddock, review the stubble type and density in order to determine speed and search swath.
3	Ensure the search is conducted using only an elevated cab diesel powered vehicles.
4	If the search is conducted using a search machine, ensure there are at least 3 searchers (including the driver).
5	Ensure the speed of a search vehicle is appropriate to the conditions and does not exceed 20km/h.
6	Ensure the search swath is appropriate to the paddock conditions and does not exceed: (a) 20 metres – if 1 person in the vehicle (b) 30 metres – if 2 or more persons in the vehicle (c) 40 metres – search conducted using a search machine.
Nb. Searching with 2 persons at 20km/h with 30 metre swaths will cover 60ha/h.	
7	If plants are found: (a) stop and search the immediate area on foot, (b) clearly mark all the plants with flagging tape, drums, spears or steel posts in a “ square ” with a 20 metre buffer around each plant or clumps of plants (refer to Diagrams 1 and 2), (c) clearly mark infestation on a farm map, and (d) record the plant growth stage (i.e. rosette, flowering etc).
8	If there are any flowering plants, either: (a) cut and bag the plants; or (b) treat the plants to prevent the production of viable seed.
Nb. Once plants are found the paddock becomes a Code 1 paddock and will require “full” search by either the landholder or a search contractor. Discontinue the “surveillance” search on this paddock. Move onto the next paddock and initiate “surveillance” search.	
9	When the search of the paddock is complete, move to exit point and clean the vehicle.
Nb. Where flowering plants have been found in paddocks, it is vital the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned. You must ensure plant material from the searched land is not carried into any other land particularly if used for agricultural purposes.	
10	Record the results of the search onto an “Infested Property Paddock Records” sheet (a “Clear Search” of a Surveillance Paddock is recorded as a Code 5.) and notify DPIRD and/or LAG of the search results.

Important

- All searching must be conducted to minimise the risk of fire.
- A firefighting unit should be present when searching.
- Paddock records need to be returned to DPIRD and/or your LAG by 15 February.

Marking search squares

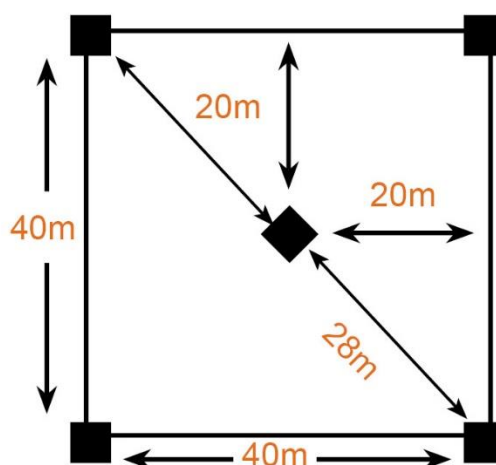
Square sizes depend on the number of plants found in the paddock.

Single plant find



Marking a single plant find square on a paddock

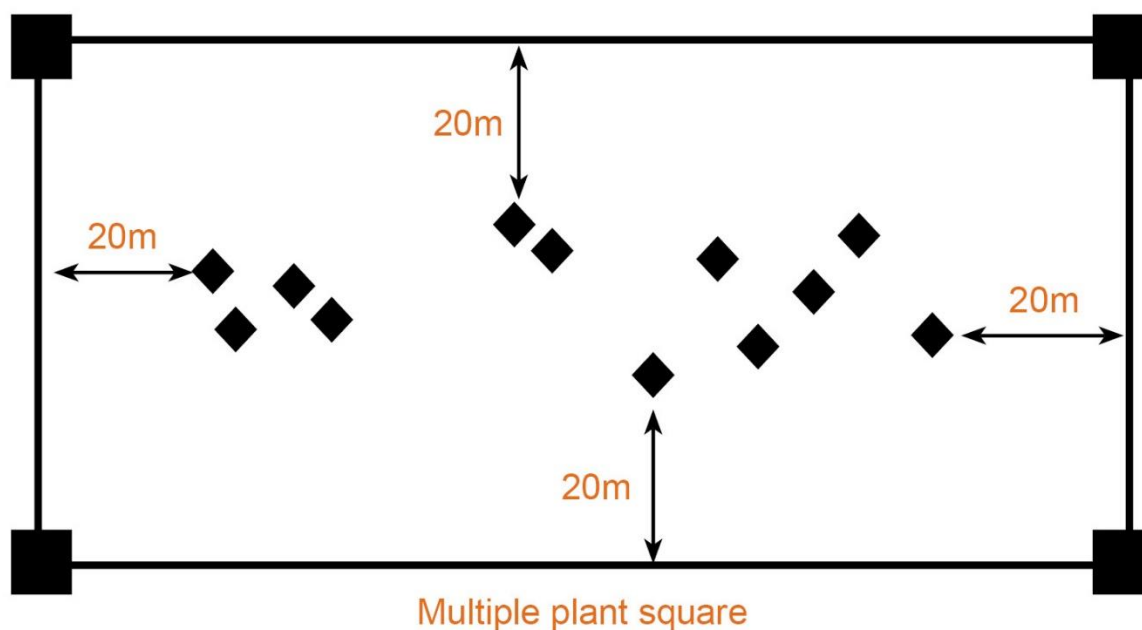
- Mark the plant(s) using flagging tape, a star picket or a drum.
- Search thoroughly to ensure there are no other plants, and step out a 20m buffer in all directions as shown. Where adjoining squares with single plants are within 50m of each other, combine the squares into one large square (while keeping a 20m distance between each individual plant and the edge of the square).
- Place star pickets or drums in each corner of the square.
- Mark the find on a farm map and submit with a Record Sheet from your **Infested property paddock record** to your local DPIRD or LAG office by **15 February**.



Single plant square 0.16ha

Multiple plant find

- Where the site contains multiple plants, search thoroughly to locate the extremity of the infestation and mark using flagging tape, star pickets or drums. Step out a 20m buffer from the outermost plants, as shown below.
- Place star pickets or drums in each corner of the square.
- Mark the find(s) on a farm map and submit a Record Sheet from your **Infested property paddock record** to your local DPIRD or LAG office by **15 February**.



All marked squares will be GPS mapped by the Searching contractor or the local DPIRD/LAG officer.

Landholders will be provided with detailed maps showing infested squares and paddocks after the summer search.