

3

SGLN Weed Fact Sheet

Ragwort

FAST FACT:
Ragwort contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids and that's why it's so poisonous to livestock. Horses, cattle and pigs are the most susceptible, so make sure they don't have access to it.

have I got ragwort at my place?

Ragwort is an erect perennial herb, with an unpleasant odour when damaged, which initially forms a rosette of leaves at the base and later produces erect stems that are much branched towards the top of the plant, with bright yellow florets. The lacy leaves are deeply divided, and the plants have 30-200 flowers per cluster. There are some native species that look similar, so seek help with identification if unsure.

why should I worry about it?

Ragwort is a Regionally Controlled Noxious Weed in West Gippsland. Land owners must take all reasonable steps to control it and prevent its spread on their land and the roadsides which adjoin their land. Ragwort plants can make over 200,000 seeds each which can last in the soil for over 10 years. Two types of seeds are produced; some with feathery hairs to help spread on the wind. Good neighbours do not share ragwort seeds with other landholders!

how can I deal with it?

Ragwort can be pulled out by hand but will leave behind root fragments which will regrow. If pulling ragwort put plants into a black garbage bag and leave in the sun to break down.

Best time to spray

Ragwort can be sprayed all year round but normally spring to summer when it is growing at its best. You can spray up to flowering stage. Once ragwort has flowered it is best to remove heads and put in a black plastic bag and spray the rest. Brush Off is the chemical most widely used. Other chemicals include Kamba M. and Grazon (ACUP required). Read the label for rates, safe usage and critical notes.

where can I get further help?

South Gippsland Landcare Network can arrange a site visit by our Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer to discuss weeds and control.

Ph 03 5682 1934 or 0428 317 928.

SGLN weeds website is at www.southgippslandweeds.com.au. This website has plenty of great information on weed identification and control. You can also contact the Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer through the web page.

South Gippsland Landcare Network

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is made up of 22 Landcare groups. Landcare encourages land stewardship and aims to improve the long term productivity and sustainability of our land.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare in South Gippsland you can contact us on 5662 5759 or email us on sgln@landcare.net

The South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce meets to discuss weed control policy and strategies.

Contact the Taskforce through the SGLN.

