

# Education news

## Weeds CRC's education & training:

April 2005 update



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### Task 5.2: vocational education and training (VET) resources.

Since February's update, Education Officers, Annabel Bowcher and Di Holding have added a number of publications to the Weeds CRC's VET sector resource list.

#### Factsheets

New factsheets are **now available**:

- *On farm solutions: sowing weed free seed.*
- *A community approach: Ag'n'Chat - specialised and innovative training for farm women.*
- *Weed management: describing weeds for identification.*
- *Weed management: collecting and preserving plants for identification.*



*Weed management: describing weeds for identification* is one of a number of new factsheets that is being used as a resource by training organisations.

### Program 5: Education

**Task 5.1:** Educate the next generation of weed researchers and managers.

A number of new aquatic weed factsheets are also **being finalised** for use in a national aquatic weed identification course. These include:

- *Weed eradication program: salvinia in Kununurra, WA;* and
- *Weed eradication program: alligator weed in Port Macquarie, NSW.*

Other factsheets **near completion** include:

- *Herbicides: use in and around water;* and
- *Integrated weed management: developing a system using tactic groups.*

Ryde TAFE (Sydney) has been using factsheets such as *Herbicides: knowing when and how to use them*; *Cultural weed management: Paterson's curse*; and, *Weed management: describing weeds for identification*, for training Bushcare volunteers. The lecturers have commented that the factsheets are an excellent resource as they don't need any modification, are easy to read and understand and provide the reader with a clear understanding of what may sometimes be a difficult to understand research outcome.

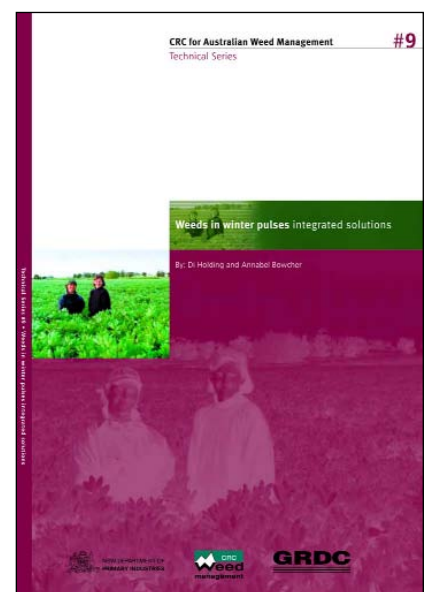
**Task 5.2:** Develop the skills of weed professionals (Vocational Education and Training).

**Task 5.3:** Increase weed awareness of primary and secondary students.

#### Technical series

Technical series #9, *Weeds in winter pulses - integrated solutions*, has had an excellent response from the agricultural sector. The current print run has been snapped up and a re-print is being considered. It is also being used in the VET sector and secondary schools as a resource for learning about integrated weed management and general farming principles.

The images of pulse seedling growth stages in the appendix have been used



Technical series #9, *Weeds in winter pulses - integrated solutions*, has also been well received by the VET sector.

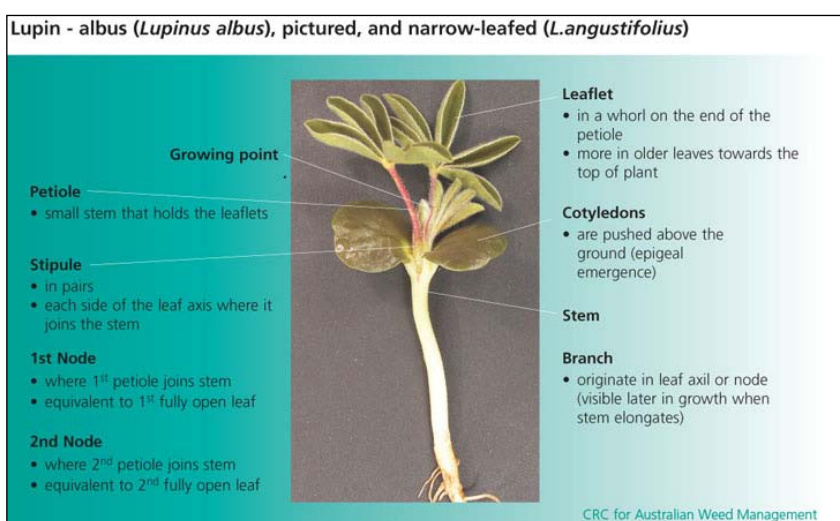
by Pulse Australia in their advisor workshops. Requests for these pictures have also been received from within the pulse industry. A factsheet with winter pulse, canola and cereal growth stages will be produced due to the demand for this from those involved with education and training.

### Introductory Weed Management Manual and its use in the VET sector

During its development, this NHT funded Program 4 resource was mapped to VET sector competencies and is being requested by registered training organisations (RTOs). The manual has recently been reprinted and will be posted out to RTOs requiring it.

The SMART Train National Support Centre (NSW DPI) is also now using the Introductory Weed Management Manual and other Weeds CRC VET resources to conduct its 'Weed Training' package which covers the competency RTC3401A *Control Weeds*.

The SMART Train course is also aligned with the AQF units *Transport, handle and store chemicals* and *Prepare and apply chemicals*. The use of Weeds CRC resources in the teaching of this accredited course means that trainers from NSW TAFE, NSW DPI RTOs and Queensland RTOs such as AgForce and Dalby Agricultural College will all use Weeds CRC education resources when they conduct this training.



The growth stage plates from *Weed management in winter pulses - integrated solutions* have been a sort after resource by organisations conducting agricultural training. A factsheet will be produced which includes pictures of the early growth stages of winter pulses, cereals and canola.

### New look for VET sector resource packages

The VET sector resource packages will soon have a new design (see below). The resources which may include such tools as teaching notes, slides and a student workbook, now have a readily recognisable Weeds CRC design.

The orange and green colour scheme and snappy graphic design was based upon the *Introductory Weed Management Manual* which is already well known and becoming more widely distributed amongst RTOs in Australia.

The new design also incorporates some of the elements used in the Weeds CRC's school education resources.

### VET Sector resource CD and folder available

Annabel Bowcher presented at the national conference for the Conservation and Land Management (CLM) network providers conference which was held at CB Alexander College (Tocal), Patterson, NSW on 4-5 April 2005. Annabel spoke about how the Weeds CRC is linking research to the community by producing education and training resources.

The presentation was extremely well received and the delegates were amazed at how supportive the Weeds CRC has been toward VET sector education.



Slides produced for Weeds CRC VET sector resources will now have a new and easily recognisable design. The resource package, *Australian weed management: biocontrol* will soon be available from the Weeds CRC's website in its new format.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the delegates were presented with a Weeds CRC folder containing a selection of resource materials and a CD with all available VET sector resources and other useful resources such as the NHT Weed management guides, Introductory Weed Management Manual, WeedWatch and Killing me softly. Many delegates asked for further copies to distribute to colleagues and to put into the libraries of their organisations.

The delegates were very pleased with the current format and range of resources that the Weeds CRC is providing and the links that have been established between the VET sector and Task 5.2. One of the most pleasing questions was, 'How can we support the Weeds CRC if a rebid is undertaken?'

The RTOs that do provide training in weed management have all had the opportunity to be placed on an email list which provides updates about the Weeds CRC's resources at regular intervals. These RTOs are also placed on the WeedWatch mailing list. Importantly, the RTOs that receive the updates provide Task 5.2 with excellent feedback on both future resource topics and the relevance of existing Weeds CRC education resources.

### New banner for Program 2 and Program 4/5

A new banner (see below) has been produced which promotes the Weeds CRC involvement in sustainable cropping systems and education and training.



Instigated by Wagga Wagga Weeds Women, Therese McGillion, Di Holding and Annabel Bowcher, the banner is available from Communications Officer, Therese McGillion (ph 02 69 381 618).

### Changes to education staff at Wagga Wagga

Di Holding has taken a redundancy from NSW DPI and will therefore finish with the Weeds CRC at the end of June this year. Her work has been of the highest standard and she will be greatly missed by the Wagga Wagga Weeds team and the Weeds CRC.

Di began work with the Weeds CRC in January 2004 while Annabel Bowcher was on maternity leave. Since Annabel's return in July 2004, they have both worked on a part-time basis producing Weeds CRC VET resources. Di is currently working closely with members of Programs 2 and 4 to finalise the *Integrated Weed Management Manual*.

We wish Di well in her new ventures, which will be a mix of farming and private consultancy - we'll miss you!!

*The interview process for a new full time Education Officer based at Wagga Wagga to work with Annabel is currently underway.*



Co-author, Di Holding (left) at the launch of the recently released Technical series #9, *Weeds in winter pulses - integrated solutions*.

**For further information visit the Weeds CRC's website: [www.weeds.crc.org.au](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au)**

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