

# Education news

## Weeds CRC's education & training:

October 2005 update



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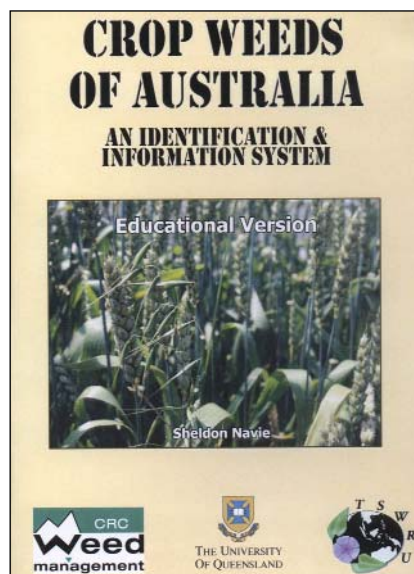
### Website changes

The Weeds CRC's website now has a new link to its education and training resources. Resources can be accessed via the 'publications' menu found on the home page.

### Task 5.1: tertiary education resources

Dr Sheldon Navie, Education Research Officer with the Weeds CRC's Task 5.1, has finalised an interactive crop weed identification key based on the Lucid identification system. It combines images and text descriptions, a tutorial and weed factsheets for all the crop weed species included on the CD-ROM.

The Crop Weeds of Australia CD-ROM is for **educational purposes only** and is not currently available for sale to the



The 'Crop Weeds of Australia' CD-ROM is a teaching tool and has not been developed as an exhaustive weed identification reference.

### Program 5: Education

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

general public. It has been developed as a free teaching tool for universities, VET providers and secondary schools. A limited number of copies of this CD-ROM are available from the Weeds CRC. For more information on this product, contact the Weeds CRC, telephone 08 8303 6590 or email [weedsarc.publications@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:weedsarc.publications@adelaide.edu.au)

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

#### Staff changes

Since April's update, there has been a change in Education Officer personnel. Dr Annabel Bowcher has remained employed on a part-time basis (Monday-Wednesday), however Di Holding has left the education program (taking a redundancy from NSW DPI).

The Weeds CRC has continued to support VET sector education resource production by funding another full-time Education Officer.

Annette Beer joined the Weeds CRC's education team in July and brings with her a wealth of experience in VET sector training. She is based at NSW Department of Primary Industries' Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute.

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

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

#### Factsheets

##### New factsheets on the website:

- *Integrated weed management: developing a plan using tactic groups.*
- *On farm solutions: winter crop seedling growth stages.*
- *Weed eradication program: salvinia in Kununurra, WA; and*
- *Weed eradication program: alligator weed in Port Macquarie, NSW.*
- *Update on leaf-feeding willow sawfly: the arrival of *Nematus oligospilus* in Australia.*
- *Physical weed management: strategically grazing *St John's wort*.*

##### New factsheets near completion:

- *Weed eradication program: cabomba in Marlow lagoon, NT; and*
- *On farm solutions: IWM and Tactic Groups (a series of case studies from around Australia that look at how various integrated weed management tactics are used in cropping rotations - part of the soon to be released training manual, *Integrated Weed Management for Australian cropping systems*).*
- *Weed management: collecting blackberry specimens for identification.*

## Guidelines

A new series titled 'Guidelines', is being introduced to the Weeds CRC education and training resource list.

*Herbicides: guidelines for use in and around water* is the first title in this series. This publication looks at using herbicides in aquatic and riparian situations.

Further additions to this series will occur next year (2006) and will provide additional information on topics similar to those already available in the factsheet series.

## New training resource: Collect, prepare and preserve weed specimens

A new training resource is available from the Weeds CRC website. This resource looks at collecting, preparing and preserving weed specimens for identification purposes.

It has been adapted for the VET sector from a resource developed by the Weeds CRC's National Weed Detection Officer, Jane Moreton.

Jane is based in Brisbane and initially compiled this resource for use in her Weed Spotters training program. This program is part of the National Weed Detection Project which is jointly funded by the Weeds CRC and the National Heritage Trust (NHT). Weed Spotters is being piloted in Rockhampton and Townsville local government areas.

The new VET training resource contains excellent photographs and information. It would be an appropriate VET sector resource for a number of units including *RTD2004A: Collect, prepare and preserve plant specimens*; *RTC2016A: Recognise plants*; *RTD2803A: Observe and report plants/animals*; *RTD3509A: Collect and preserve biological samples* and *RTC5011A: Collect and identify plants*.

Sections in the resource include:

- What is a weed?;
- How to collect, prepare and preserve weed specimens;
- What data to collect;
- Drying specimens;

- Hygiene issues;
- References and additional resources;
- Information on the National Weed Detection Project (Weed Spotters) Equipment for collecting, pressing and storing; and
- Example herbarium proforma and contact details for herbariums around Australia.

## Blackberry identification training workshops

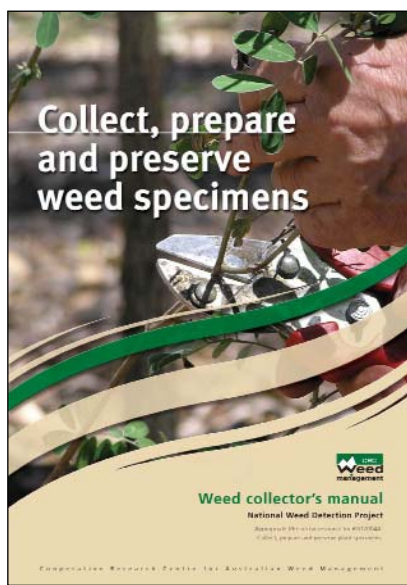
Annette Beer is currently finalising a series of blackberry identification pilot workshops in NSW based on the CD-ROM 'Blackberry - an identification tool to introduced and native *Rubus* in Australia'.

In 2003 several pilot workshops were held introducing this CD-ROM (see Weedwatch 9, July 2005 for full details of the CD-ROM).

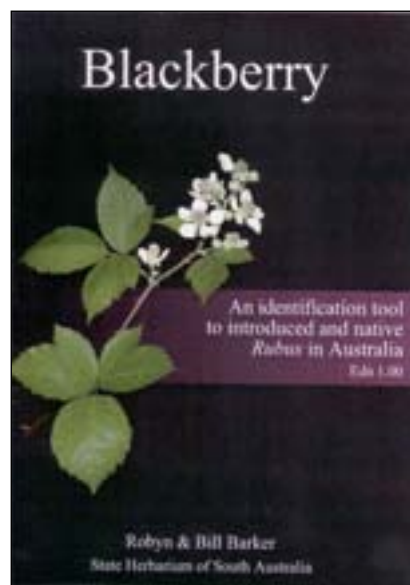
The finalised CD-ROM is now available commercially. The Weeds CRC with the support of Dow AgroSciences will be conducting a series of workshops to enhance the use of the CD-ROM.



*Herbicides: guidelines for use in and around water* is one of a number of new publications available on the Weeds CRC's website.



A new resource is available on the Weeds CRC website that looks at collecting, preparing and preserving weed specimens.



Contact Annette Beer if you would like to attend the blackberry identification workshops based on the above CD-ROM.

Initially workshops will be in NSW but they can be made available nationally as required.

The workshop will introduce to participants the role of the CD-ROM in identifying blackberry taxa and explain why correct identification is important for best-practice control programs in particular in monitoring the effectiveness of rust.

Participants will learn the requirements for and importance of submitting samples to the Herbarium for formal identification.

Participants will work with fresh and preserved samples, in a practical way using the CD-ROM identification tool to distinguish features and taxa.

There will also be a session on the correct application of chemical for effective control.

### **Blackberry workshop locations and tentative dates**

Workshops are planned for:

- Armidale, Tuesday 29 November 2005;
- Tumburumba, Tuesday 6 December 2005;
- Canberra, Thursday 8 December 2005;
- Bathurst, Tuesday 13 December 2005; and
- Bega, Tuesday 17 January 2006.

### **To register your interest please contact:**

Annette Beer, Education Officer, Weeds CRC, (NSW DPI Wagga Wagga, NSW)  
 E annette.beer@dpi.nsw.gov.au  
 T 02 6938 1671  
 F 02 6938 1861

## **Program 5.3: schools resources.**

Susanna Greig, Education Officer working on weed resources for schools, reports that the current resources are being well used and awareness about them is clearly developing. The "for schools" link to the website received a massive 18 469 hits in August. This is a significant increase from the 5003 hits in July and is a wonderful result!

Future resources for schools will include the development of specific senior secondary studies that have a link to weeds and weed issues.

### **'Ghastly Guests' resource**

Thirty-two teachers nationwide are currently teaching this unit of work written for upper primary. Some teachers are teaching the unit in combination with Weed Warriors forming a comprehensive study of weeds.

The teacher's response to the limited release has been very rewarding and this is exciting. All have indicated they will teach the unit again.

Comments from teachers who have used this resource in their classroom include:

- "I want to congratulate you on producing a fine resource which has become a catalyst for studying a topic right on our doorstep but usually ignored."
- "Great variety, easy access, excellent work quality, it's a winner!"
- "I was most impressed with this teaching unit - a professionally presented, well planned and useful teaching resource."
- "A wonderful resource."



The upper primary resource, 'Ghastly Guests' has been well received during the pilot phase. It can be downloaded from the Weeds CRC's website.

The main modifications to follow will be updating the curriculum links and the inclusion of weeds from more regions across Australia.

It is important children can study weeds that they can relate to and have in their own back yards. After such a successful limited release plans are now being developed to organise a larger scale release of this upper primary unit of work.

### **'Lord of the Weeds' school competition**

After another successful year of the *Lord of the Weeds* competition, the winning reports have been placed on the 'for schools' link on the Weeds CRC's website.

These reports describe the work, with which students are currently involved, or are planning to carry out to rehabilitate weedy areas. This competition offers prize money which the schools can direct towards managing the weeds in these studied areas.

