



Caltrop (*Tribulus terrestris*) is a troublesome weed that is difficult to control. Council spends in excess of \$10,000 per year controlling Caltrop. Unfortunately Council cannot control Caltrop alone. Council requires your help to remove this troublesome weed. The sooner Caltrop is removed the better chance of reducing seed set.

Caltrop Identification

Caltrop is a mat-forming weed. Its stems can be up to 1m long and spread out from a central crown with a deep taproot. The leaves and stems have a silvery appearance, particularly on the underside of the leaves. Caltrop has bright yellow flowers about 5-15mm across with 5 petals. The seeds are 8-12mm wide and up to 8mm high, they are covered in short spines.



Chemical Control

- There are a wide range of herbicides available for controlling Caltrop.
- When considering using chemical spraying as a control measure there is likely to be a succession of germinations of this weed throughout summer. Therefore, more than one spray application may be necessary, particularly if a residual chemical is not used.
- The timing of spray applications is critical to ensure that the majority of the weeds have been sprayed before seed set occurs.
- Using spraying as the only control method can be impractical and it is usually better to combine spraying with other means of control.
- Seek advice and further details from your local SAMDB NRM Board office (8532 9100).



Manual Removal

Hand-pulling Caltrop is effective if the infested area is not too large. Aim to remove the entire tap root as Caltrop can reshoot. Place any plants in your green bin.

Competition

Competition is a very effective control method for Caltrop as it is a poor competitor. It only achieves dominance when other vegetation is removed and the ground is bare. Heavy mulching and healthy thick ground covering plants and grasses can suppress germination.

Should you require more information please contact Council's Environment Officer, Mr Glenn Dean at g.dean@murraybridge.sa.gov.au or on 8539 1167.

Regards

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