

Promax® helps Wallumbilla grower in fight against Fleabane

When Wallumbilla grazier and graingrower Greg Smith has weed problems he knows that he can't afford to let them get out of control. With hard to control Fleabane the major weed in his cropping land, a weed control failure means big problems down the line. So his choice of weed control has to be right.

Greg farms "Iona", a 4000 acre beef and grain growing property 20km southwest of Wallumbilla. Originally taken up by his grandfather in the 1930s, "Iona" is now a partnership between Greg, wife Di and sister Lynelle.

As well as running "Iona", the enterprise also sharefarms 1400 acres nearby. All of the share-farmed land is cropped, as well as 700 acres on the home farm under a wheat & chickpea rotation.

With good growing conditions during the last couple of seasons where in-crop post-emergent sprays could not be done due to wet conditions, Greg faced the real prospect of Fleabane getting out of control. "We used to have weeds we couldn't kill, but by choosing Promax® as the adjuvant to use with the herbicide mix, for the first time we have had 100% kill" Greg claims. "Initially we chose Promax as it works well in our hard water, but we have found that it helps to control these hard to control Fleabane."

The most recent weed spray was 8 weeks ago, and due to the weeds being a bit stressed, Greg used 2,4-D amine 625 at 2L/ha, some with Promax at 400ml and some with 500ml/100L. "The Fleabane was 9-10 inches (22 – 25cm) high. "When we checked the job out it was clear that the 500ml/100L rate of Promax had done a superior job killing the weeds, and doing it quicker" Greg says.

This result confirms what Greg has previously seen. "In early 2008, we fallow sprayed using Ally at 7g/Ha with 2,4-D amine 625 at 1L/Ha and glyphosate at 1.25 L/Ha plus Promax at 300ml per 100L on Fleabane that was 12inches (30cm) high. Again we had an excellent kill with the lower rate of Promax, but this suited the more succulent weeds that were more easily killed.

Greg's sprays are applied using a spray coupe which was bought in partnership with other growers. Sprays are mixed in tanks with a Silvan venturi mixer on the back of a truck. "This makes the job easy," Greg says, "The spray is then pumped directly into the spray coupe".

Greg also reports that he likes working with the new Easypour drum that the Promax comes in. "The 'no glug' pouring is great".

According to Greg, people are taking notice of his results. "The local agronomist has been out to have a look at our results, and I noticed that there was stock of Promax in the store. We understand they have some farmers doing test strips. We also have neighbours who are looking seriously at using spray mixes with Promax." "We're looking forward to another good year this year" Greg says, "a good average yield would be fine, but a better price at harvest would be a bonus." ■



Success with Fleabane Control

We all know Fleabane is a hard to control weed. So when agronomists achieve good control of the weed, it's worth making a bit of noise about.

There have been many varied spray mixtures tried over the years, all with mixed success. So far most attention has been with multiple mixtures of herbicides to achieve acceptable results.

But more recently, agronomists have been using the spray mixtures with superior adjuvants to attempt to achieve an improved job.

Once such effort has been at GoFarm at Chinchilla, where Owner and agronomist Russell Wood has achieved excellent results controlling Fleabane.

GoFarm Chinchilla is a progressive retailer that works closely with farmers and suppliers to achieve the best possible result for their customers. With two agronomists on staff they have a strong focus on agronomy and have forged ahead since starting up five and a half years ago.

Weed control was achieved on Fleabane plants at the rosette stage, up to approximately 20cm diameter, just prior to stem elongation and flowering.

The spray job was done on the 12th September, and was inspected on 25th September.

The spray mix used was Glyphosate 450 at 1.2L/Ha; 2,4-D Amine 625 at 800ml/Ha and Atrazine 900WG at 1.4Kg/Ha with Promax® at 500ml/100L water as the spray adjuvant to improve penetration, and coverage.

A similar mix had been used in the past with fairly good success... "We had used a wetting agent plus sulfate of ammonia to overcome water hardness, but in this case we decided to try Promax as the penetrant adjuvant as it is suited to use in hard water."

According to Russell, "The spray job was excellent with good control of the Fleabane evident when we checked the job 2 weeks after it was sprayed."

Go Farm Chinchilla use contractors a lot for their spray jobs.

"The other good thing about this mix is there is one less product for the contractor to have to worry about carrying and mixing." says Russell, "That's a real bonus for guys that get pretty busy during the spray season." ■



Above: Effectiveness of the spray mix including Promax was excellent on fleabane rosettes