



PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION MATTERS

Landcare NSW and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust are working together to raise awareness, and support private land conservation efforts across the state.

IDEAS FROM PLCM EVENTS

An information sheet for conservation-minded landholders and others interested in conservation land management

Theme Woody weed control



Greater Sydney
Landcare



Mid Coast 2 Tops
Landcare
Connection

Kaitlyn Furze from Camden Council demonstrates the Injecta 400 on large African olive.

Some lesser-known tools for woody weed control

Splatter gun

Particularly effective for large lantana infestations.

Compared to traditional sprayers:

- designed for higher herbicide concentration and larger droplet size – less foliage cover required
- less total herbicide required
- greater reach – up to 10m
- more accurate, so it's easier to hit weeds without off-target damage.

Injecta 400 'olive gun'

For large woody weeds:

- drill powered
- injects a herbicide capsule
- seals the hole with a wooden plug.

Wonder Loppers

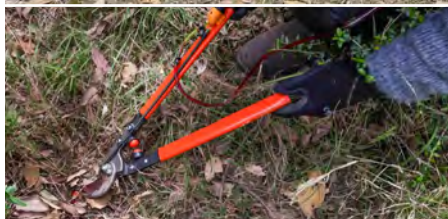
Attached to a supply of herbicide so you can paint the stump as you cut.

Tree popper

A lever that grips and pulls out large woody weeds.

The prong

Heavy duty weed lever with a foot plate.
Currently unavailable – if you have one: treasure it!



Source event African Olive control in Southwest Sydney – Field day at Cobbitty Hills 12/10/24

Landcare host Greater Sydney Landcare

Traditional Country The Camden area is part of a boundary between Dharuk, Dharawal and Gundungarra

Source event Australian Wildlife Conservancy Waulinbakh forest tour Stroud 30/10/24 (splatter gun)

Landcare host Mid Coast 2 Tops (MC2T) Landcare Connection

Traditional Country Worimi

Bonus tool: cordless reciprocating saw

We didn't test it, but some workshop participants confirmed its superiority to a hand saw, chainsaw or loppers in many situations.

It can operate in tight spaces and required less physical effort.

"We have a few ladies in our group who are a bit older with arthritis – using the handsaw is difficult, but with a reciprocating saw they could work all day."

"Amazing little tool."

"Needs to be added to the inventory of bush regenerators tools."



"In the larger infestations like this, we've resorted to using a splatter gun"

Forestry splatter gun

"In an area where lantana is not so thick, if it's a small enough plant, we would just pull it out. If it's getting to a size where you can't pull it out, we would use a cut and paint method – so use a cane knife or loppers, chop it down at the stump and then apply some glyphosate straight on to the base."



Josh Guthrie, Australian Wildlife Conservancy:

The splatter gun is basically a gas powered pistol. It looks a little bit like a Ghostbusters gun.

It shoots a single jet of glyphosate

That's to help to reduce the amount of spray going onto other plants.

Doing a single track, that's enough for the plant to absorb the glyphosate and be killed.

And then we come back, cut in a line, and we do another spray, and just continuously try and eat into those infestations.

We've already done a couple of sessions through here. It can take a couple of months – up to six months – to die off. That will break down eventually – it becomes really brittle.

It uses a more concentrated herbicide mix

For foliar spray, you generally use a 1 to 100 mix of water to glyphosate. With the splatter gun you would do more like a 1 to 10 ratio.

You don't have to cover as much foliage

So basically you're spraying out in either a fan or staggering, and it can be a metre to a metre-and-a-half apart.

It's accurate – you can get right next to native trees without having any Roundup going on those plants

Isabelle Strachan, MidCoast2Tops Landcare:

It is super concentrated though, so you have to be really careful and assess your site before you start spraying – there can be natives under lantana.

Jonathon Quaken, MidCoast2Tops Landcare:

It is good on a number of weeds.

If you look at the weed on the New South Wales DPI Weed Wise website, it will tell you if there's a splatter gun mix. If there's not, I wouldn't assume it's going to be effective – you probably shouldn't be doing that!



A manual version is also available, powered by squeezing the trigger. It could be easier than carrying the gas around – depending on your wrist strength.



Injecta 400

"perfect for thicker woody weeds like African olive"

Developed in Queensland by Bioherbicides Australia. Available from a range of suppliers.

"For these I probably put just one per stem."



Kaitlyn Furze, Camden Council:

There's a larger stem down the bottom that branches into four. So you can just put one on each side of that instead of hitting all of the smaller ones.

It depends on you as well – If you're more comfortable bending down to reach that one".

It's a lot safer to use around waterways and in harsher weather

Usually if it's going to rain, you say, "no, we won't be using herbicides". But this is safe to use even in harsher weather conditions.

It uses, I think they said, 30% less chemical than conventional methods.

"So does it kill the whole tree?"

Yeah you kill the whole tree. Sometimes it does take up to five weeks, so it can be slower on results, but you can get a lot more done.



Eli Stead, Greater Sydney Landcare:

Sometimes it's good to have a spotter to make sure, when it's penetrating into the tree that it's not diverting from your angle. Because if you go off your hole by the smallest amount, it will crush the capsule. You have to be firm and quite strong when you're pushing it in.

"How do you know if you've broken capsule?"

You can feel it instantly because when it goes in, if you're holding it correctly, you can feel it. There's no resistance.

It just takes some playing with to learn how to do it. We did an hour straight without one capsule breaking. You just have to get your head around your form.

It does work, and it works really well

You can get through stands of trees quite easily. But you don't want to do that too quickly anyway, because then you get too much weed [invading the area you have just opened up]

Bruce French, Landholder

It's a standard wood drill. You can take it out and sharpen it in your drill sharpener when it gets blunt – It's very easy. And you can take the whole thing apart, you just need an Allen key.

How to use it

You fill the wheel with the glyphosate capsules and the wooden pieces.

Then you clip it on.

You find your spot, then push forward so you're stabilizing the machine.

And then you drill in.

There is a line so you should be able to see where to stop.

You'll want to make sure you're holding it firm so that the three prongs can sit in where that hole is.

And you pull back. Sometimes you'll have to reverse to come out. You'll

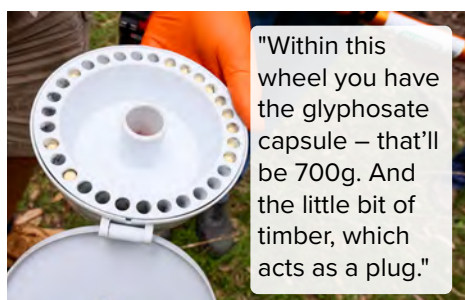
hear it click. And that means the wheel is rotating into a capsule.

And then you'll smack it in twice – maybe three times. And it pushes the capsule and the wooden piece into the tree, and then it will slowly release and kill the tree.

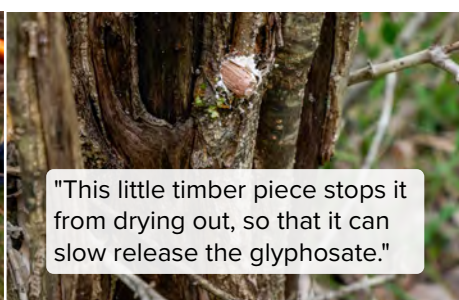
Where to drill

About hip height is probably most comfortable.

Usually you would put one capsule in every ten centimeters around. We generally try and keep in line with where we've gone.



"Within this wheel you have the glyphosate capsule – that'll be 700g. And the little bit of timber, which acts as a plug."



"This little timber piece stops it from drying out, so that it can slow release the glyphosate."



Xuela Sledge, Greater Sydney Landcare:

We've got another new tool here. We haven't actually applied it on the ground yet. It's called the Wonder Loppers.

This is made by an ex bush regenerator. He's made two up especially for this event.

So it's experimental. And if we can reduce the amount of chemicals we use – happy days!



Eli Stead:

So the way this works, there's a five litre pack of glyphosate. But then it has a primer like you have on your lawnmower.

You prime it. You cut. And then you use the end of this. The poison dribbles down, and you spread it across the top of the section that you've cut.

I think it will work, but I also think it's up to the user with this one. So I'll let you guys decide if you like it or not when we go up there and use it.





The prong



UPDATE

Sadly, Peter Nichol, the Australian inventor and manufacturer of The Prong passed away recently.

The Prong is not currently available.



Xuela Sledge:

We've also bought a couple of prongs today. I don't know if any gardeners here use something similar. This can get out flat weeds or boulders, or break up hard ground – anything like that. Use it with your foot.

These are the ladies versions. I commend them on that actually, because it's really difficult as a woman to be using some of these tools, when they're too heavy – the pink one is nice and light.

This yellow one, I'm presuming is for the fellas – or for tall people – it's so heavy.

This is the thing about using tools. You've got to use the correct tool for you, and you've got to use the tool correctly – Otherwise you'll injure yourself.

Eli Stead:

I think this one's good.

It's just to use this [yellow prong] as an everyday in the field application – this is heavier than most crowbars. So if you're going to be carrying that through the scrub, and it's weighing that much, you're going to be tired by the time you get back home.

General information

Landcare NSW [Partnering in Private Land Conservation](#)

[NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust](#)

[Study conservation land management online](#). Includes a range of conservation land management e-learning courses.

Thanks to the organisers, presenters, participants and agency staff, who allowed us to record these events, and assisted in developing this resource.

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