

Pittsworth District Landcare Assn Inc and Mt Tyson District Landcare Group

NEWSLETTER

March 2013

*A land of flooding rains indeed!
In 24 years, my garden has never
looked so good.*

*What a great time to start a
Community Garden! Thanks to
the dedication of Geoff and Carol
Baker and an enthusiastic mob
of devotees, the Pittsworth
Community Garden is becoming
a reality.*

*We welcome any feedback to
make sure this newsletter stays
relevant to land managers in the
Pittsworth Mt Tyson districts.*

*Please let your friends and
neighbours know they can
subscribe for free. Just send an
email to the Secretary
[pittsworth@darling-downs-
landcare.org.au](mailto:pittsworth@darling-downs-landcare.org.au).*

*If you would like to talk to any of
the committee, their contact
details are on the back page.*

*We welcome your news too, so
please forward your written
and/or photographic interests to
the Secretary
[pittsworth@darling-downs-
landcare.org.au](mailto:pittsworth@darling-downs-landcare.org.au).*

** What land management
methods are working for you on
your property?*

** Are you worried about a weed
or plant you are finding difficult
to control?*

*Share your sightings of our
wonderful flora and fauna- and
the feral pests too...*

*...and any other topic you think
might be of interest to others
who care about the land.*

It's all happening in Pittsworth....

Pittsworth Landcare is supporting the foundation of a Community Garden in the heart of the town. If you would like to be involved, please call one of the enthusiastic Community Garden members listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Pittsworth State High School is again supporting Landcare by nominating two students from years 12 and 11 to the role of Landcare Ambassador 2013. They are Kate McIntyre and Georgia Holmes – congratulations girls! Each student will receive a bursary of \$500 towards their future studies and \$1000 is donated to Pittsworth High School to support community landcare projects.

Article from the Pacific Agriscience Bulletin #001/2013

Glyphosate Resistance Spreads in the US Problem intensifies as nearly half of farmers faced herbicide resistance in 2012

By Jackie Pucci

[Farm Chemicals International, Feb 5 2013]

First reported in 1998 in a pair of California almond orchards, glyphosate resistance is spreading in the United States, and the weeds are only getting smarter. The problem has intensified as multiple weed species are now resistant on a growing number of farms, according to an extensive new survey.

Kent Fraser, vice president of the research firm Stratus Agri-Marketing Inc, which conducted a survey of thousands of US growers across 31 states over three years, told Farm Chemicals International, "We were surprised to see how quickly the problem of glyphosate resistant weeds has spread, especially in the Midwest. It is also alarming that the number of farms with more than one of the confirmed resistant species has increased so fast."

The crop input industry has responded with products of differing modes of action designed for resistance management. The products are to be used as part of an integrated approach with crop rotation representing a key component. "It will be interesting to see if growers choose to rotate chemistries from year-to-year, mix it up with multiple modes of action at different application times in one year, or use products with multiple modes of action built in," Fraser said.

U.S. growers told Stratus that 61.2 million acres of cropland are infested with glyphosate resistant weeds -- almost double the

number recorded in 2010. According to the International Survey of Herbicide Resistant Weeds, there are currently 396 unique cases of herbicide resistance globally, with 210 species. Herbicide-resistant weeds have been reported in 63 crops in 61 countries. The survey's results were dramatic:

- Nearly half (49%) of all U.S. growers said they have glyphosate-resistant weeds on their farm in 2012, up from 34% in 2011.
- Resistance is still worst in the South. For example, 92% of growers in Georgia said they have glyphosate-resistant weeds.
- The mid-South and Midwest states are catching up. From 2011 to 2012 the acres with resistance almost doubled in Nebraska, Iowa and Indiana.
- It's spreading at a faster pace each year: total resistant acres increased by 25% in 2011 and 51% in 2012.
- The problem is getting more complicated. More and more farms have at least two resistant species on their farm. In 2010 that was just 12% of farms, but two years later 27% had more than one.
- Marestalk (horseweed) was the weed most often reported with glyphosate resistance, followed by Palmer amaranth (pigweed). Another half-dozen species were tracked in the study.

Are you a leader in sustainability? Do you know someone who is? If so, nominations are now open for the [2013 Premier's Sustainability Awards](#) to showcase Queenslanders leading the way in sustainable practices.

Pasture management on small blocks stacks up

Addressing the issue of pasture management on small horse blocks in peri-urban areas has long been on the radar for Toowoomba Landcare Group. Toowoomba Landcare Group chair Jeff Coutts said the issue was highlighted by community feedback as part of other activities the group had undertaken with the Condamine Alliance Sustainable Agriculture program. "All year round grazing on such small blocks often leads to degraded pasture, compacted soils and soil loss in rain events," he said. "The impact on the feeding regime of the horses can also affect horse health," Jeff said, "And horse owners often lack specific knowledge about pasture management and therefore lack the tools to address the situation." The next step in addressing the issue saw Condamine Alliance partnering again with the group to run the Better Pastures, Healthier Horses workshop focusing on regenerative pasture management for horse properties. The workshop was held on Saturday 9 February at the Bulls Head Inn, Drayton and was presented by horse nutrition expert Mariette van den Berg from MB Equine Services. [Read the full story here.](#)

Help stop the spread of weeds between public grounds and your property

Help stop the spread of weeds between public grounds and your property
Do you take your horses or livestock to public grounds such as showgrounds, sporting fields, and racetracks? If so, we would like to hear your thoughts on managing the transfer of high risk weeds between public grounds and your property. Weeds are significantly impacting our agricultural land, recreational grounds, native grasslands, roadsides and backyards, and costing Queensland around \$600 million annually. Condamine Alliance is fighting the spread of key weeds through preventative and early detection measures such as the proposed Clean Grounds project. "The intent of this project is to reduce the spread of high risk weeds through public grounds weed accreditation and training," said Jayne Thorpe, Manager – Biodiversity. "The idea is that this would be a publically rewarding process that would encourage grounds and its users to establish effective weed hygiene practices and help to stop the spread." "Your answers to this survey will help us to determine whether there is a need and a desire by the users of public grounds to improve weed hygiene and stop the spread of weeds." [Read the full story here.](#)

Soil Nitrogen reserves decline

(ARTICLE FROM INCITECT PIVOT FERTILISERS FARMER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER, March 2013)

There seems to be a trend in falling soil nitrogen and organic carbon levels across the cropping regions of Victoria, New South Wales, **Queensland** and South Australia. This overview of soil reserves is based on soil tests conducted by Nutrient Advantage Laboratory Services.

Many of eastern Australia's winter crop paddocks may not have adequate nitrogen for crops to reach their potential in 2013, based on soil tests analysed by the Nutrient Advantage[®] laboratory from 13 October 2011 to 5 June 2012.

Editor's note: To look further at some really good tech charts, etc please follow the link below: <http://farmercommunity.incitecpivotfertilisers.com.au/News/Latest%20News/Nitrogen%20Losses>



New version of 'OzAtlas' App available now for download on Android phones

The Atlas of Living Australia team have just released a new and improved version of the OzAtlas mobile device App available for download onto Android phones from last week. This application will allow users to retrieve lists of species recorded within an area, and to view details of the species such as recorded distribution, scientific name, common names and images all from the ease of your mobile phone. It also allows users to submit species occurrence records with an image to the Atlas of Living Australia, and to view the latest images added to the Atlas. Some new improvements to this version include: Improved map tool with adjustable radius; breakdowns of species by more user friendly groups e.g. Parrots, Perching Birds, Beetles; improved record submission with extraction of EXIF information from supplied images; improved GPS handling and improved usability for the Android platform. It is also much more responsive than the current version. The App is completely free and available right now at the google play store - click here to download The new version is available only on Android phones and the iOS version remains unchanged however still contains the same features. If you have an Android phone why not download the App today. [Read the full story here.](#)

Biodiversity Forum

18 April 2013 9.15 am–2.00 pm RSL Dalby Qld

Find out how Biodiversity is faring in the Northern Murray Darling Basin by relevant speakers. Participate in an informed discussion and have a say.....

Topics include:

Federal Policy
Forestry
Land for Wildlife

Mining
Local Govt Policy
Pests

Eco Fund
Fire
Biodiversity & Regional Bodies

Weeds
State Policy

FREE
Admission
& Lunch

Register by: 15/04/2013 Please register for catering purposes.

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Info: www.condaminecatchment.com.au

PITTSWORTH LANDCARE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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