

Canadian Fleabane Management

Characteristic of Weed

Canadian Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*) is an introduced weed species that thrives under cool damp conditions with little soil disturbance. Canadian Fleabane belongs to the Asteraceae (Daisy) family. Despite the common name it is said to be native to Asia and was introduced into Australia from Europe or South America.

Lifecycle

Canadian Fleabane is an Annual, taprooted plant reproducing only by seed. Canadian Fleabane will germinate throughout the year. Peak flowering of Canadian Fleabane will occur in early summer to late autumn.

Flushes of emergence can occur after significant rainfall events.

One single flower head contains 45 – 70 seeds, which can be easily dispersed by wind (up to 122m). The average number of seeds per plant ranges from 25,000 to 60,000. A large plant may produce 200,000 seeds. Seeds mature 3 weeks after flowering. Estimated base temperature for germination is 12.5 – 13.0 degrees celcius. Under dry storage, seed longevity is 2-3 years.

Canadian Fleabane overwinters as a rosette of leaves.

Identification of Canadian Fleabane

Canadian Fleabane is a very hairy weed species that can reach heights of up to 1.5 metres. The leaves are dark green in colour, linear and lanceolate with many small hairs.

The lower leaves will have toothed margins whereas the upper leaves will tend to have smooth margins. Canadian fleabane has numerous small white flowerheads that appear very “fluffy” at maturity.



Canadian Fleabane flowerheads



Grows up to 1.5m



Rosette of leaves

Herbicide Resistance Threat

Preliminary research in the Goondiwindi region has indicated that a population of Fleabane has developed resistance to glyphosate.

This is somewhat controversial, as some believe that the weed has become more difficult to control with glyphosate over time, whereas others consider that fleabane has always been difficult to control with glyphosate alone.

Chemical Control Options

Non Selective Control

The most consistent control of Canadian Fleabane seedlings and young plants in the rosette stage has been glyphosate (Razor) mixed with metsulfuron-methyl (Associate) and 2,4-D (Amicide 625).

Other possible control measures are glyphosate mixed with 2,4-D at higher rates, Tordon 75D, Dicamba (Kamba 500), Atrazine (Nutrazine) + 2,4-D, and Grazon DS.

Glyphosate alone appears to be largely ineffective, irrespective of rate, spray volume or adjuvant, except for very small seedlings (<2cm). Split applications of glyphosate followed by Atrazine, Sprayseed or paraquat have shown promising results (known as double knock method).

Selective Control in turf

In turf, control of Canadian Fleabane is best eradicated when it's young and under 30 cm in height.

At a more mature age, herbicides work much less effectively on Canadian Fleabane, and repeat applications are required to gain adequate control.

Repeat applications of 2 or 3 way mixes of 2,4-D, Dicamba, MCPA and Clopyralid have proven effective in controlling this weed.

