



Serrated Tussock: Annual Control Calendar

Updated: September 2007

LC0268

ISSN 1329-833X

Department of Primary Industries

This calendar outlines the approximate timing of methods used specifically for the control of serrated tussock. Other specific methods will be needed to manage serrated tussock depending on individual circumstances. Control activities need to be ongoing, if reinfestation is to be avoided.

The methods and timing outlined in the tables, are a guide only. Any works that are carried out should be researched for your area and individual circumstances. It is important to undertake a specific control program using these calendars as a guide. Don't over commit yourself by trying to do more than budgets or other limitations allow. Plan for the whole property so that areas not controlled this year do not contaminate other areas of the property, or neighbouring lands that have already had some control

works done. Work will be cheapest in the long term if it is done accurately and maintained effectively.

This document tabulates a serrated tussock control program in the context of:

- General control requirements;
- Pasture establishment;
- Pasture management;
- Cropping; and,
- Tree establishment.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following Landcare Notes:

- LC0175: *Serrated tussock - Identification*; and
- LC0370: *Serrated tussock Management*

General control requirements

		Spraying	Spray topping	Cultivation	Burning/slashing		
DEC	SUMMER						
JAN							
FEB							
MAR	AUTUMN	Spray before seeding. Best results are achieved when tussock is actively growing.		Cultivate to kill tussock in heavy infestations. Don't forget to spot spray fence line and areas that can't be cultivated.			
APR							
MAY							
JUN	WINTER						
JUL							
AUG							
SEP	SPRING				Spray to stop seed set depending on seasonal conditions		Burn/slash to stop seed set and remove excess plant material for spraying or cultivation. Check with the Country Fire Authority (CFA)
OCT							
NOV							



Pasture establishment

Some paddocks may require resowing to boost competition and help to control weeds. This table contains information on timing for pasture establishment in Victoria. There are generally two times to sow new pasture depending on seasonal conditions, regional area and the pasture species to be sown. These times are autumn and spring, both of these times are contained in the table and both overlap each other. It is important to identify which time applies to your own property.

It is essential to plan a pasture renovation program. Consideration should be given to the end use of the paddock including what type of stock will graze the pasture. Soil tests should be carried out on each paddock (prior to sowing) to determine fertilizer and soil condition requirements. Check on the need for specific services or supplies (contractors, chemicals, fertilizer and seed.) as any delay with the timing of your program may seriously effect establishment.

		Burn/slash	Grazing	Spraying	Cultivation	Sowing/fertilizer
DEC	SUMMER		Graze pasture short to remove excess grass for cultivation. Care should be taken with heavy infestation as grazing may not be possible			
JAN						
FEB						
MAR	AUTUMN	Burn/slash heavy infestations (before cultivation) to remove excess tussock and grass. Check with CFA		Spray pastures as an alternative to cultivation for direct drill operations after the autumn break. Ensure the tussock is actively growing before doing the spraying.	Cultivate to prepare seed bed for autumn sowing and as a preliminary control for spring sowing	
APR						Sow new pastures with fertilizer in autumn/winter depending on the time of the autumn break
MAY						
JUN						
JUL	WINTER					
AUG						
SEP	SPRING	Burn/slash heavy infestations (before cultivation) to remove excess tussock and grass. Check with CFA	Graze pasture short to remove excess grass for cultivation. Care should be taken with heavy infestation as grazing may not be possible		Prior to tussock seed set. To prepare seed beds for spring sowing and as summer fallow for autumn sowing	Spring sowing is not recommended for areas with an annual rainfall below 600 mm.
OCT						
NOV						

Pasture management

Grazing is a very important tool in the control of pasture weeds. This table contains information on grazing timing to maximize serrated tussock control. Other methods of serrated tussock control will be needed in addition to grazing, but good grazing management can minimize germination and survival of new plants.

Understanding pasture growth and being able to quantify pastures in terms of feed value will enable better pasture management. It is essential to understand fully the aims of both spray grazing and spray topping.

It may be necessary to use slashing to help maintain pasture height, a slasher/mower may also be used after grazing to remove patches of feed that animals have under grazed.

		Controlling grazing	Spraying
DEC	SUMMER	Don't over graze summer pastures. Aim to leave 30mm to 50mm height of cover and to avoid bare patches	
JAN			
FEB		Aim to remove excess pasture (bring to about 30mm height) with grazing and or slashing to aid new pasture growth in autumn.	
MAR	AUTUMN		
APR		Use rotational grazing to maximize autumn growth and its utilization.	Spray graze to control broad leaf weeds.
MAY			
JUN	WINTER	Increase length of rotations so pastures are not over grazed and can capture maximum light. Ideal minimum height not less than 30mm to 50mm	
JUL			
AUG			
SEP	SPRING	Decrease length of rotations and lock-up paddocks for fodder conservation as pasture supply exceeds demand.	Spray top to stop seed set of annual grasses and serrated tussock.
OCT			
NOV			

Cropping

As with all farming practices it is important to plan ahead before embarking on any new program. The table below is only a guide, and should be used as such. Each area will

have slightly different timing and each crop will have different requirements. It is important to do soil tests so soil conditions can be assessed accurately and fertilizer requirements met.

		Burn/slash	Grazing	Spraying	Cultivation	Sowing/fertilizer
DEC	SUMMER		Graze pasture short to remove excess grass for cultivation. Care should be taken with heavy infestation as grazing may not be possible			
JAN						
FEB						
MAR	AUTUMN	Burn/slash heavy infestations (before cultivation) to remove excess tussock and grass. Check with CFA		Spray pastures as an alternative to cultivation for direct drill operations after the autumn break. Ensure the tussock is actively growing before doing the spraying.	Cultivate to prepare seed bed for winter crops and as a preliminary control for summer crops. Care should be taken to avoid erosion.	Sow winter crops with fertilizer in autumn depending on the time of the autumn break
APR						
MAY						
JUN	WINTER					
JUL						
AUG						
SEP	SPRING	Burn/slash heavy infestations (before cultivation) to remove excess tussock and grass. Check with CFA	Graze pasture short to remove excess grass for cultivation. Care should be taken with heavy infestation as grazing may not be possible	Spray pastures as an alternative to cultivation for direct drill operations prior to seed set	Prior to tussock seed set. For summer crops to prepare seed beds and as summer fallow for winter crops. Care should be taken to avoid erosion.	Sow summer crops with fertilizer in spring, timing will depend on type of crop and the season.
OCT						
NOV						

Tree establishment

Successful tree establishment requires careful planning. Rainfall, topography, soil type, etc. need to be considered. The table below contains information about the approximate timing of key activities. Individual site variations will determine the precise timing of events. The

quality of planning will determine the success of new plantations or individual trees. Tree planting will take more than one year, so prepare your own calendar to organise equipment in time. Fencing and vermin control need to be taken seriously; there are many options and it is critical that they fit in with the timing of other operations.

		Ripping	Fencing	Vermin control (rabbits)	Planting	Spraying
DEC	SUMMER			Contact the Department of Primary Industries		
JAN				Assess populations to determine appropriate action.		
FEB				Lay baits when paddock feed is low.		
MAR	AUTUMN	Rip lines to ensure root penetration and to improve soil moisture in the rip lines (remember this is done in the year prior to sowing) Don't forget to destroy rabbit harbours while ripping tree lines.			Trees should be planted when there is adequate moisture to ensure a good survival rate.	Spray areas to be seeded or rip lines. This is best done six weeks after opening rains to ensure a good kill.
APR						
MAY			Fence new plantations after ripping. Fencing should be of a standard that will give adequate protection from all classes of stock on your property. Rabbit proof fences should be used where trees will not be individually guarded.	Fumigate burrows that have re opened after ripping - or re-rip.		
JUN	WINTER					
JUL						
AUG				Vermin control must be ongoing. Identify vermin and ensure that adequate measures are taken to control them.		
SEP	SPRING					Initial spray control for problem weeds.
OCT						
NOV						

Chemical information

Registrations of products can change from time to time, and it is therefore important for chemical users to ensure they refer to current information about chemical use patterns and legislative obligations. An Agricultural

Chemical User Permit (ACUP) is required for use of 'restricted use' chemicals in Victoria, and there are

restrictions on certain chemical uses in Agricultural Chemical Control Areas.

Since 24 July 2007, records of chemical use MUST be made and kept for all agricultural chemical use, not only for 'restricted use' chemicals as was required previously. Chemical users must make within 48 hours of use, and keep for a period of 2 years, records of use specified in the

Agriculture Note AG1212; “Keeping Chemical Use Records (Give me one good reason!)”

For further information on chemical use patterns and/or legislative obligations in relation to chemical use in Victoria call the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136186, or visit the Chemical Standards Branch website:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards

Further advice

- Contact your local landcare or friends group for further assistance and advice.
- Call the DPI/DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186.
- Contact your local DPI Pest Management Officer for advice on local programs.
- Visit the DPI website at: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au>

- and the Weeds Australia website at: <http://www.weeds.org.au>

For further information on tree establishment refer to Agriculture Note AG0771: *Eucalypt plantation establishment: site preparation*

Landcare Note LC0104: *Tree planting and aftercare*

Landcare Note LC0108: *What is direct seeding?*

Landcare Note LC0294: *Rabbits using intergrated control*

Landcare Note AG1057: *Small Farms Pasture Establishment*

Acknowledgments

Compiled by Daniel Mudford, DPI, July 2000. Chemical Information supplied by Alan Roberts, Chemical Standards Branch, DPI, September 2007. Updated by John Strachan, DPI, September 2007.

The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any of the products mentioned. The State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.