

St Helena Weed Control Manual

This manual has been developed under the Weed Management Action Plan 2016 – 2017. The Action Plan aims to build awareness of the need to ensure that weed management on St Helena is a high priority, so that by 2021 weed management will be *“coordinated across sectors through implementation of a national Weed Management Strategy which is adequately resourced, supports holistic land management, and is legally enforced through the Environmental Protection Ordinance.”*

The activities of all individuals may contribute to the introduction of new weed species, or the spread of existing weeds. All land managers have a role to prevent the spread of weeds to neighbouring properties and to work co-operatively to strive to ensure optimal weed management is achieved.

This manual is for government workers in Roads, Agricultural, Forestry and Environment Sections, landowners, environmental NGOs, farmers, gardeners and all members of the public. It consists of:

- Weed management calendars for Roads, Environment, Landowners, Farming and Forestry.
- Best practice guidelines for the control of bilberry, blue weed, bull grass, African fountain grass, furze, lantana, pheasant tail fern, whiteweed, wild mango, and general broadleaf weeds, grasses, and woody weeds
- Best practice guidelines for disposal of weed material
- General guidelines for spraying

Control in general

General guidelines for weed control are:

- Timing is important, you need to hit weeds before they start flowering: “1 years weed is 7 years seed”
- Don’t start without planning for follow-up.
- Look at the big picture: what will happen when the target weed is removed? Worse ones can come in, especially if removal results in disturbed land, and some weeds can be useful in sheltering newly planted endemic species.
- Pick the right method for the job - not just with regards the weed species but also taking into consideration the context. There are two main approaches:
 - Large-scale short-term action with relatively little input: typically for agricultural and pasture clearing.
 - Longer term action, of varying scale and often with high input: typically for conservation work.
- When tackling a widespread weed, start with the outliers. Remove these first, and then focus on the main area of infestation.
- Success can be achieved only by on-going removal. Don’t think you can do it with a single one-off treatment. Examples of successful programmes include:
 - Forestry: 1 manual clearing plus 4 chemical treatments per year.
 - Landowners: systematic cleaning of pasture to ensure that the cleaning starts from pastures at higher altitude in order to prevent dispersal of seeds.

Weed management calendars

Where possible time control actions to before plants are flowering to stop them setting seed or fruit. Note that exact timing of control activities will depend on the rains and may vary from the calendars given below, which should be seen as guides only.

Overall

SPRING			SUMMER				AUTUMN		WINTER		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Whiteweed control campaign											
Chemical control of: blue weed, bull grass, furze, lantana, wild mango							Chemical control of double gee, nargy weed				
			Manual control of pheasant tail fern				Manual control of blue weed, bull grass, double gee, furze, lantana, nargy weed				
Flax - flowering time varies, watch for signs of flowering and control beforehand											
Chemical control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bamboo, bilberry, buddleia, African fountain grass, everlasting, fleabane, fuchsia, grasses, ink bush, pheasant tail fern, poppy, tungy and small broadleaf weeds											
Manual control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bamboo, bilberry, buddleia, African fountain grass, everlasting, fleabane, fuchsia, grasses, ink bush, pheasant tail fern, poppy, tungy and small broadleaf weeds											

Roads

Main weeds of concern: aloe, bilberry, flax, fleabane, furze, grasses, whiteweed and wild mango.

Weed control by knapsack sprayer, mechanical sprayer, road sweeper and manual removal.

SPRING			SUMMER				AUTUMN		WINTER		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Whiteweed control campaign											
Chemical control of: furze, lantana, wild mango											
			Manual control of: pheasant tail fern				Manual control of: furze, lantana				
Flax - flowering time varies, watch for signs of flowering and control beforehand											
Chemical control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, fleabane, grasses, pheasant tail fern, and small broadleaf weeds											
Manual control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: aloes, bilberry, fleabane, grasses, and small broadleaf weeds											

Environment

Main weeds of concern: bilberry, buddleia, African fountain grass, fuchsia, furze, pheasant tail fern, tuncy, whiteweed and wild mango.

Weed control by targeted chemical control with knapsack sprayers, and manual removal by relatively large labour force, including volunteers. Programme usually longer-term, and includes re-planting of cleared areas with endemic species.

SPRING			SUMMER				AUTUMN		WINTER		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Whiteweed control campaign											
Chemical control of: furze, lantana, wild mango											
			Manual control of: pheasant tail fern				Manual control of: furze				
Flax - flowering time varies, watch for signs of flowering and control beforehand											
Chemical control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, buddleia, African fountain grass, fuchsia and pheasant tail fern											
Manual control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, buddleia, African fountain grass, fuchsia furze, lantana, tuncy											

Landowners

Main weeds of concern: bilberry, bullgrass, flax, furze, ink bush, lantana, poppy, thatching grass, whiteweed and wild mango.

Weed control by knapsack sprayer, and mechanised and manual removal, with limited labour force. Large-scale, following a programme of regular repeat treatments.

SPRING			SUMMER				AUTUMN		WINTER		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Whiteweed control campaign											
Chemical control of: bull grass, furze, lantana, wild mango											
			Manual control of: pheasant tail fern				Manual control of: furze				
Flax - flowering time varies, watch for signs of flowering and control beforehand											
Chemical control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, grasses, ink bush, pheasant tail fern, poppy, and small broadleaf weeds											
Manual control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, furze, grasses, ink bush, lantana, poppy, tuncy and small broadleaf weeds,											

Farming

Main weeds of concern: blue weed, double gee, everlasting, furze, lantana, nargy weed, nut grass, sow thistle, whiteweed, wild mango and wild turnip.

Weed control by knapsack sprayer, and mechanised and manual removal, with limited labour force. Can be large or small-scale, and follow a programme of regular repeat treatments.

SPRING			SUMMER				AUTUMN		WINTER		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Whiteweed control campaign											
Chemical control of: blue weed, bull grass, furze, lantana, nut grass, wild mango							Chemical control of: double gee, nargy weed				
			Manual control of: nut grass, pheasant tail fern				Manual control of: double gee, furze, nargy weed				
Flax - flowering time varies, watch for signs of flowering and control beforehand											
Chemical control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, everlasting, grasses, pheasant tail fern and small broadleaf weeds											
Manual control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bilberry, everlasting, furze, grasses, lantana, tungy and small broadleaf weeds											

Forestry

Main weeds of concern: bamboo, bilberry, everlasting, whiteweed

Weed control by knapsack sprayer, and mechanised and manual removal, with limited labour force. Can be large or small-scale, and follow a programme of regular repeat treatments.

SPRING			SUMMER				AUTUMN		WINTER		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Whiteweed control campaign											
			Manual control of: pheasant tail fern								
Flax - flowering time varies, watch for signs of flowering and control beforehand											
Chemical control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bamboo, bilberry, everlasting, grasses, pheasant tail fern and small broadleaf weeds											
Manual control any time in the year ideally before flowering of: bamboo, bilberry, everlasting, grasses and small broadleaf weeds											