

When to Cut and Paint

The “cut and paint” method of weed control is best suited to control woody weeds, such as gorse for:

- **small infestations**
- **large isolated bushes**
- **where gorse is growing amongst threatened species/ significant vegetation**
- **fence-lines**
- **dams, creeks & other water bodies/ courses where spraying herbicide may cause pollution**
- **where herbicide spraying is not appropriate.**

The Cut and Paint method can be performed most of the year - but not when it's raining!

Prepare a Weed Control Plan

Preparing a weed plan at a State, regional, catchment and property scale should involve the following strategic approach:

1. Define the problem – What have you got? How much? Where is it? What other weeds are there? When is the best time? (when weeds are growing actively)
2. Plan the strategy – get advice, think about it...
3. Develop your works program – think again, what's realistic?
4. Implement the strategy – Do it!
5. Replace the gorse with appropriate new plants
6. Monitor and review. Check on your work. How much is coming back?
7. Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up...



What you'll need for the Weeds

- **Herbicide:** A product containing glyphosate of 360g/l concentration and an applicator, brush or wickwiper.
- **Tools:** vary from chainsaws to pruners, handsaws, loppers and secateurs.

Wear Protective Gear

Wear protective clothing for eye and face protection and strong chemical resistant gloves (not leather) and boots.



Moving in ... The Plan of Attack



- Control gorse sooner rather than later.
- Keep clean areas clean by containing and confining the weed problem.
- Start by controlling the outliers and then work your way into the core infestation.

Cutting the Gorse Plant

Cut the bush at the base of the trunk/stem down as level and low to the ground as possible, with loppers, brushcutter chainsaw or bush-saw depending on the size of the plants and the thickness of the stems.



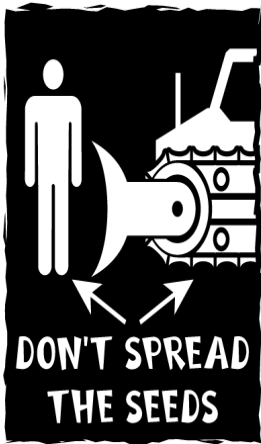
Applying the Herbicide

Paint the trunk or stem with glyphosate immediately after cutting.

Leaving cut gorse in situ helps shade out any new seedlings and re-sprouts; it may continue to provide important habitat for native animals. Be careful moving the cut gorse so seed is not spread. In some cases, (eg close to houses etc) it may be necessary to burn the dead gorse when safe to reduce fire hazard. Always check with the Tasmanian Fire Service before burning off and always check for new seedlings after fire near gorse areas – either cut and paint, spray or hand-pull.



Stop Seeds Spreading



- Gorse mostly spreads by seeds. Hygienic practices can help stop seeds spreading.
- Check and keep boots, vehicles, agricultural machinery, earthmoving equipment and livestock clean.
- Seeds stuck on muddy boots, wheels, hooves, or in animal hair spread the problem.
- Machinery should be cleaned to remove any soil, seed or parts of the plant prior to leaving infested areas and before entering areas free of gorse.
- Seed can also be transported by water. Removing gorse bushes growing on edges of waterways is important for preventing the dispersal of seed downstream.

Follow-up, Follow-up, Follow-up....

Monitor for re-sprouting regularly over the long-term, as seeds can re-emerge for several decades. Remove any new infestations immediately.

If gorse is growing on neighbouring properties, regularly monitor your own property to ensure the gorse has not emerged or spread. If it has, remove it as soon as you can.

Finding a Native Plant to Replace Gorse

Gorse seedlings are very susceptible to competition. Establishing pasture or planting native plants where gorse once grew is recommended to minimise opportunities for gorse to re-emerge. Replacing gorse with native understorey plants provides a natural home for wildlife.

Greening Australia (Tasmania), the Understorey Network and the regional NRM organisations can provide advise on suitable native vegetation.

Contact

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