

ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES TO 2,4,5-T FOR WEED CONTROL IN FORESTS

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Abstract. Control of gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, bracken, *Pteridium esculentum*, and broom, *Cytisus scoparius* in N.Z. forestry is expensive and until recently the most frequently used herbicide was a proprietary mixture containing 2,4,5-T and picloram. The cost of a single application of this herbicide for control of gorse now exceeds \$500/ha. On many sites bracken co-exists with gorse and a separate application of asulam at an additional cost of \$240/ha would be required for its control. Until recently no herbicide could effect control of both gorse and bracken in a single treatment.

The introduction of new herbicides has allowed less expensive but more effective development of land areas from scrubweeds to forests. For example, both glyphosate and metsulfuron herbicides with the organosilicone surfactant Silwet L-77^R control both gorse and bracken at \$350/ha. Furthermore these herbicides also give good control of a wide variety of scrub and grass weeds such as blackberry, *Rubus fruticosus*, buddleia, *Buddleia davidii*, broom, pampas, *Cortaderia* spp. and native scrub hardwoods (various species).

Additional advantages of these herbicides include: they can be used close to horticultural crops; when used with the surfactant Silwet L-77^R they are relatively rainfast; they control a broader spectrum of (but are less selective in) various plant species. Most of all they are safer to the environment and more acceptable to the public.

Recently introduced herbicides provide better and less expensive weed control at reduced public concern.