

WEED-A-METRE

N.A. Davenhill
Forest Research Institute, Rotorua, New Zealand

Abstract. Releasing individual seedling trees from grass and herbaceous broadleaved weed competition using hand-held herbicide applicators is more economical than applying broadcast treatments. Environmental impact is also reduced.

Advantages and disadvantages of two widely used hand-held applicators - the automatic spot gun (for liquid-based herbicides) and the Weed-a-metre (for granules) are compared. Laboratory trials provided a series of typical spread patterns from the two devices - these, and the influence of granule density on distribution by the Weed-a-metre are illustrated figuratively.

A field study contrasted differences in productivity and costs for releasing newly-planted radiata pine seedlings.

Photographs illustrate alternative uses for the Weed-a-metre in controlling weeds around farms, tree nurseries, recreation areas and road edges.