

## WOODY WEED CONTROL BURNS

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Fire has been recognised as an effective and economic management tool against encroachment of woody weeds in semi-arid areas. Research and trial burns conducted by NSW Agriculture, CSIRO and NSW Department of Conservation and Land Management (CaLM) have identified the conditions suitable for a control burn, and a strategy for implementation.

A video for the instruction of personnel involved in conducting a control burn has been produced by the Woody Weeds Taskforce. The taskforce includes landholders and staff of NSW Agriculture and CaLM. The video demonstrates the procedures that should be followed to ensure safety of people and property, and to achieve a successful burn in a designated area.

Control burns should take place in the context of a whole property plan, integrating the needs of stock and pasture. The video discusses the conditions suitable for burning in terms of fuel, shrub species, climatic conditions and time of year. It states clear guidelines for the preparation of firebreaks, backburns and lighting of the headfire. The importance of adequate personnel, equipment and machinery for fire control is emphasised.

The video will be useful as a training aid for all Departments and landholders planning to use management burns.

## THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT AND CONTROL OF BLUE THUNBERGIA (*THUNBERGIA GRANDIFLORA*)

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This video demonstrates the devastating ecological impact of Blue Thunbergia (*Thunbergia grandiflora*) on rainforests in World Heritage Areas of the wet tropics in Queensland.

After 26 herbicides were screened in the field, only the herbicide imazapyr achieved successful control. Imazapyr is now registered for the control of Blue Thunbergia at 1:133 (1.88 g/L). Commercial applications have proven highly successful in the control and clean up of Blue Thunbergia infestations.