

WEED FILE: Field Horsetail

ISSUED: DEC 2023



Equisetum arvense

DESCRIPTION

Originally from Europe, Asia and North America, this has become naturalised in South America, Madagascar, Australia and New Zealand. This plant has remained largely unchanged for several hundred million years.

It is an erect plant with rhizomes that can often go 2m deep and have small inert tubers on the rhizome, activating when the plant and rhizomes die, producing new plants. The aerial parts die back each year. It has 1-4cm cone-like structures and the fertile tips contain spores. Leaves are long, thin, needle-like branches that whorl and resemble leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Well established and widespread in the Manawatu but also found in isolated infestations in Wellington, Havelock North, New Plymouth and Kawhia.

HABITAT

Usually found in damp ground, river banks, lake margins and gravelly or sandy soils.

IMPORTANT

Because of the ability to regrow from the rhizome system, it is essential to follow up with a second spray programme once any regrowth or fresh growth has become evident.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

In Pasture

Knapsack Spraying per 15L water

- **Glyphosate 360** at 150ml, or **Glyphosate 540** at 100ml, or **Granny** at 67g
- **Triclo** at 90-180ml
- **GrassMate** at 90ml
- Add **Superwetter** at 15ml/15L

Boom Spray

Rate per Hectare (water / Ha)

- **Glyphosate 360** at 10L (150L), or **Glyphosate 540** at 7L (150L), or **Granny** at 4.5kg (150L)
- **Triclo** at 10L (300L)
- **GrassMate** at 10L (300L)
- Add **Superwetter** at 100ml/100L

In Maize and Cereals

Boom Spray- min. 200L/ha water

- **Dicamba 500 SL** 1.5L/ha, or
- **Nicosulfuron** and **Chlorsulfuron** are also options for control but not products Rainbow & Brown currently handle.

Wasteland and Roadsides

Knapsack Spraying per 15L water

- **MSF600** at 7.5g, or
- **Glyphosate 360** at 300ml, or **Glyphosate 540** at 200ml, or **Granny** at 135g
- Add **Superwetter** at 15ml/15L

Glyphosate products will kill grass and harm clover. GrassMate, Triclo and MCPA750 are pasture safe but will harm or kill clover.

