

Slender Ice plant control in Quairading Nature Reserve.



During 2011 an area of Salmon Gum woodland in Quairading Nature Reserve was found to be infested with slender ice plant, a succulent, annual herb which creates a mini saline environment around itself. This renders the area in which it grows inhospitable to other plant species. It produces plentiful seed, which remains viable for many years. The Shire of Quairading and Friends of Quairading Nature Reserve successfully applied to Wheatbelt NRM in 2012 for a Small Community Grant to eradicate the population.

To carry out the project, technical information on the eradication of Slender Ice Plant was sought from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Department of Environment and Conservation and the local Quairading Agri Services consultant. A survey of the area was conducted by volunteers from Friends of Quairading Nature Reserve Committee, with the area of infestation being pegged and individual plants marked with a

spray marker. Due to the staggered germination of the seed, the area was subsequently surveyed two more times. To try and patch out the weed the area was hand sprayed twice, but due to new germinations post spraying the area was sprayed with a boom for more thorough coverage of the area. There have

Wheatbelt NRM Small Community Grants 2012

Recipient: Shire of Quairading and Friends of Quairading Nature Reserve

Amount Funded: \$ 461.96

People Involved: 5

been 3 further surveys to assess the effectiveness of the spraying. Lessons learnt include the effective spraying for slender ice plant, the fact that the plant has a staggered germination and it would appear that not all seed germinated in 2012 due to dry conditions, so further monitoring would be required in 2013. Also, it's important to monitor the slender ice plant to ensure that it is sprayed before seed sets. The site will

be monitored by Friends of the Quairading Nature Reserve, and subsequent annual spraying will occur if necessary, to be conducted by the shire of Quairading Works staff. Other parts of the reserve will be monitored to ensure the slender ice plant has not spread, and members of the group are now confident that they will be able to identify and control the plant.



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