

KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

Control Methods For Rhododendron (*Ponticum*) in Nature Conservation Sites

Stem and Plant Base Treatment Using Chainsaw

This is a versatile, fast, efficient and cost effective control method.



FOR THIS METHOD APPLY CUTS, WITH CHAINSAW TIP LOW TO BASE OF STEMS, TO CREATE A RESERVOIR FOR HERBICIDE SOLUTION, AND AVOID RUNOFF.



MULTI-STEMMED PLANTS ARE TREATED BY APPLYING CUTS INTO THE BASE OF PLANTS, SO THAT ALL STEMS ARE OPEN TO HERBICIDE TAKE-UP.



ALTERNATIVELY TREAT MULTI-STEMMED PLANTS WITH LESS ACCESSIBLE BASES BY APPLYING CUTS TO EACH STEM AS SHOWN ABOVE.



LARGE DIAMETER STEMMED PLANTS ARE TREATED BY APPLYING TWO OR THREE CUTS LOW TO BASE OF STEMS.



SMALLER DIAMETER SINGLE STEMMED PLANTS DEPENDING ON SIZE ARE TREATED WITH ONE CENTRAL CUT OR TWO SIDE CUTS LOW TO BASE OF STEMS.



PLANTS LYING LOW TO GROUND ARE TREATED BY MAKING ONE, TWO OR THREE CUTS (DEPENDING ON STEM DIAMETER) WITH SAW TIP INTO STEMS LOW TO BASE OF PLANTS.

15% herbicide solution was found to be most effective in Killarney National Park trails.

- Apply herbicide solution with hand held applicator immediately to fresh saw cuts, to the point of run-off, add dye to solution to indicate treated cuts.
- Effective all year around in Killarney National Park trails, plant death is usually complete within twelve months of initial treatment.
- Note: leaf death took several weeks longer during October to March trials.

ADVANTAGES:

Can be used for control of most rhododendrom plant types | Excellent kill rate | Cost effective
Low volumes of herbicide solution required | Minimal risk of herbicide drift | No soil disturbance
Eliminates brush handling | Effective in light showery weather | Chain friendly

DISADVANTAGES:

Second large scale work phase if standing dead plants are to be removed | Potential fire risk
Standing dead plants and subsequent litter may inhibit regeneration and site management

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS:

Correct application of method by competent chain saw operators

For further information contact Peter O'Toole at Killarney National Park :: Phone: 087 6781614.