



Plant Disease Update

Polygonum aviculare. (Wireweed)

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Weed Facts - Wireweed

- Can be either an annual or bi-annual weed species in sports and amenity turf.
- Has a large thick tap root that provides anchorage, making it difficult to remove by hand.
- Primary natural means of population spread is by seed only.
- Seed requires exposure to cold temperature to break seed dormancy and usually needs light exposure to germinate.
- Seed germination usually begins around March and often seems to stop in late Spring or early Summer.
- Produces numerous viable seed, usually by late Autumn, although, it can keep producing viable seed into early Summer or whilst flowering.
- High percentage of seed has the ability to be viable for a long time in the soil.
- Plants actively grow during Autumn through to late Spring or sometimes early Summer.
- Plants are reported to have a negative allelopathic effect on several common grasses.
- Plants can be toxic to horses and other livestock if ingested.

It is important to note; the best time of year to manage Wireweed, whether through cultural or Chemical means is to target the weed population prior to seed production, whilst the plant is actively growing (see Figure 1 - The Life Cycle Calendar).

Cultural Management - Wireweed

Some of these cultural management practices can be of assistance when trying to reduce a small population. However; may not always be practical for large scale / broad acre infestations.

- Hand removal of individual plants (small populations only).
- Cultivate and improve soil structure, aeration, drainage and encourage a dense healthy turfgrass sward.
- Restrict traffic and mowing through infested areas in order to minimise seed dispersal.

Chemical Management - Wireweed

Chemical application is usually required in order to provide successful long-term management of a large infestation of Wireweed. It may take 3 to 5 years after initial chemical application in order to deplete the seed bank.

Please note that with all herbicides, it is extremely important to understand their turf safety in order to choose the most suitable product for a specific situation. This information is often found on the APVMA approved product label.



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Figure 1: Life Cycle Calendar - *Polygonum aviculare* (Wireweed)

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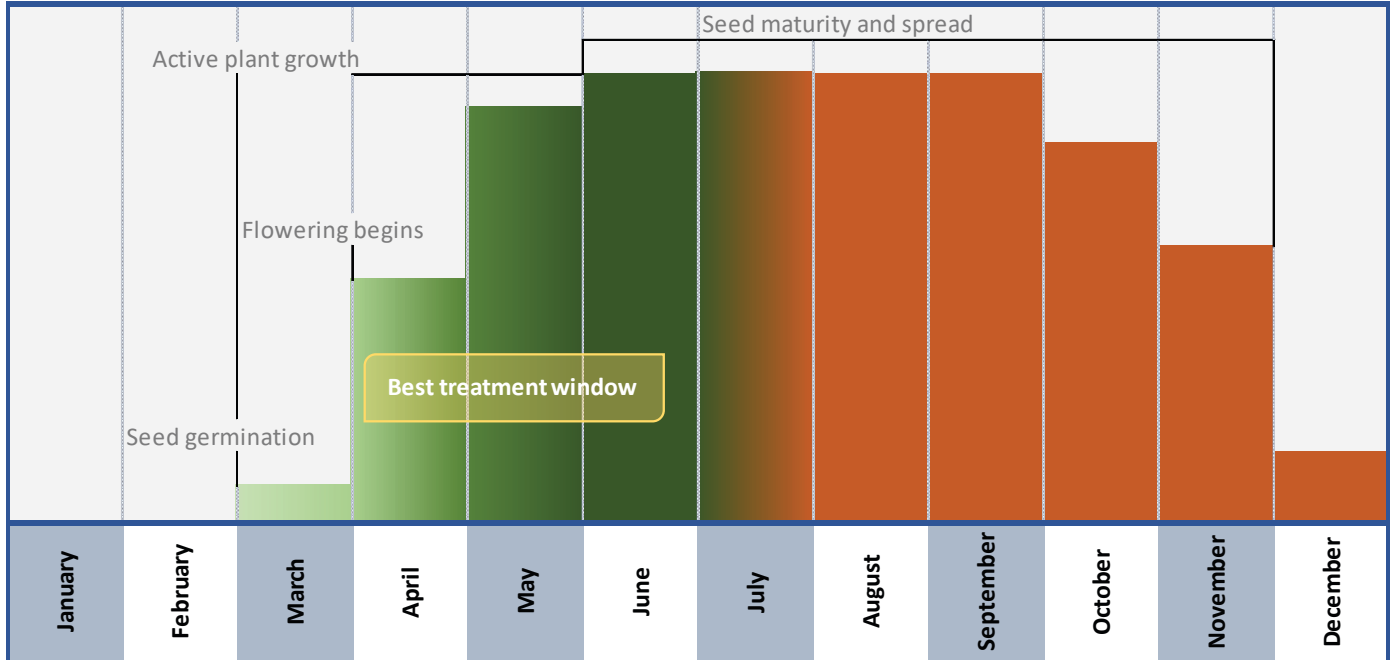


Figure 2: Table of Herbicides with a label registration Wireweed

Product Name	Active Ingredient	Label Rate per ha	FRAC Code	Manufacturer
2,4-D Amine 625G*	2,4-D	2.5-4 L/ha	D	Adama
Casper	Prosulfuron / Dicamba	0.8 - 1.2 kg/ha	BI	Syngenta
Cutlass 500 *	Dicamba	1.2 L/ha	I	Adama
Cutlass M	MCPA / Dicamba	3 L/ha	4	Syngenta
Methar-Tri-Kombi	Mecorop / 24-D / Dicamba	4.2 L/ha	I	Campbells
Sportsground	Mecoprop / MCPC / Dicamba	4.2 L/ha	I	Campbells

* Please check label for additional instructions



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