

# NGN - Developing control strategies for key problem weeds in North West NSW ICN2404-002RTX & ICN2403-002RTX



Issues identification 2025  
External summary





Authors note:

This report has been prepared for external communication with meeting participants and interested stakeholders.

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# 1. Issues identification process overview

GRDC projects ICN2404-002RTX & ICN2403-002RTX have been initiated in 2024 to provide local extension outcomes for control of key problems weeds across northern NSW. As part of the project charter, local growers and agronomists are to be engaged to identify and prioritise their development and extension needs.

In 2024, to understand these priorities, ICAN initiated a multifaceted consultation approach, consisting of the following activities:

- ICAN conducted a short survey (see attached Appendix A) at the July/August round of GRDC Updates at Talwood (July 23, 2024), Walgett (July 24, 2024), Goondiwindi (July 30/31, 2024), Pittsworth (August 1, 2024), Jandowae (August 2, 2024).
- 3-hour consultation meetings for growers and agronomists were held at Gunnedah (August 13, 2024), Narrabri (August 13, 2024), Burren Junction (August 14, 2024), Pallamallawa (August 15, 2024)

In 2025, ICAN conducted a series of workshops on fleabane and milk thistle. At the conclusion of these workshops, participants were asked to break into small groups and discuss and record topics where they considered there would be significant industry benefit in further research or extension. After small group consensus, the more important topics were discussed within the larger group.

This 2025 feedback builds on the larger issue identification process run 12 months earlier. In general, many of the same issues continue to remain.

2025/2026 field research trials will be developed based on the feedback from participants.

## 2. Summary of issues identification consultation meetings 2025

At the completion of each of the August 2025 round of fleabane & milk thistle workshops,

Below is the list of topics identified across the 2025 meetings, grouped into similar themes where applicable.

**Table 1. Issues prioritisation | Problem Weed Workshops, August 2025**

	Gunnedah	Narrabri	Walgett	Moree
<b>Glufosinate</b>				
- more work on the importance of humidity / temperature / delta T	X2		✓	✓
- water quality			✓	✓
- AMS				✓
- weed size			✓	✓
- spray quality			✓	✓
- does it work better in a drying soil profile?			✓	✓
- are there formulation / surfactant differences?				✓
- mixing partners at OSST rates e.g. Group 14				X2
<b>Sowthistle</b>				
- are we better to apply Group 14 alone or in mixtures?	X2	X2		
- do low rates of Group 4 mixed with Group 14 help or hinder?	X2	X2		
- control strategies in wet soils where regrowth is more likely				✓
- residual strategies that use less Flame or Balance				✓
- inconsistent control of sow thistle when using the same treatment at different times of the year. Glyphosate followed by paraquat plus group 14 works well in late autumn/winter, however, did not work in summer even at higher rates through OSST	✓			
IWM strategies for managing problem grasses. (BYG & WMG are priorities. FTR less so.)		✓	✓	✓
- differences between various Group 1 herbicides		✓		X2
- knockdown and residual strategies immediately post harvest with weeds already present		✓		
- residual options without relying on Balance in cotton systems		✓		
- alternate knockdown options for glyphosate resistant BYG			✓	
<b>Windmill grass</b>				
- more information on systems for management.	✓	✓		
- what pre-emergent options work in fallow? Are they better control than Balance?	✓	✓		
- are mechanical options viable at higher population densities?	✓			
- use of grazing to remove heads of established plants to enable better herbicide coverage?	✓			
- control strategies for large plants already present after harvest		✓		
- options for in-crop management so we do not start the summer fallow behind the eight ball? (populations germinating in July)	✓		✓	
<b>Group 14 herbicides on BYG / WMG</b>				
- are we better to apply alone or in mixtures?		X2		
- do low rates of Group 4 herbicides help or hinder?		X2		

<b>Double knocks</b> - non-residual second pass double knock options that don't contain paraquat		✓	✓	
- low rate paraquat +/- Group 14 or Group 4			✓	✓
- best practice management for double knock timing				✓
Impact of <b>adjuvants/ surfactants / foliar fertilisers</b> on herbicide performance. - which work / don't work?			✓	✓
- is there any advantage of applying certain adjuvants a day or more before the herbicide?				✓
<b>Phalaris</b> - options for Group 1 resistant phalaris – knockdowns or residuals	✓	✓		✓
- alternative residual options to Sakura (worried about resistance selection)				✓
<b>Wild oats</b> - options for Group 1 and Group 2 resistant wild oats – knockdowns or residuals		✓	✓	✓
- impact of cultivation on wild oat seed burial and how does this affect residual herbicide performance?			✓	
<b>Ryegrass</b> - control strategies / packages	✓			
- residual herbicides applied at planting e.g. Sakura, prosulfocarb		✓		
Tank mix antagonism. Glyphosate + Group 1 (BYG & WMG the target)		X2		
Are there repeatable benefits from Dropzone or Colex D (versus standard 2,4-D products)	X2			
Where do drones fit? Are they cost effective?	✓			
Impact of soil residual herbicides on rhizobia and nodulation / N fixation. Performance of different types of inoculation media (granular, peat, liquid) in association with residual herbicides	✓			
Valor at residual rates (280g/ha) – how does this impact grass weeds or volunteer cereal control with paraquat / glyphosate / glufosinate if grass weeds are present at application?			✓	
If targeting grass weeds in fallow, are we better off using a Group 1 or paraquat applied alone rather than trying to mix glyphosate with a Group 1?	✓			
Role of Xtendimax (dicamba) in fallows around cotton growing areas	✓			
How to reduce spray droplet inefficiency?	✓			
Economics, efficacy and practicalities of single, double knock and triple knock sprays in fallows in high soil moisture/ pressure situations		✓		
Deadnettle and sowthistle control in chickpeas		✓		
Compare different disc seeders types and pre-em's	✓			
Optical sprayer set up advice. How does this change the delivered rate on the ground?		✓		
Green on brown and green of green solutions for optical sprayers		✓		
Northern region guide to crop competition. Weed and crop impacts in different crops and weeds and situations.				✓
In crop sorghum weeds pre-and post-emergent options. Need new actives for grasses				✓