

Basal bark spraying

Woody weeds that are too thick or too thorny to cut stump or frill ring or that tend to sucker from the roots after such treatment or have many stems are best dealt with by basal bark spraying. This technique works best with thin-barked trees.

Herbicides for basal bark spraying are formulated in an oil base to penetrate through the bark, and are more toxic to people than glyphosate. Read and follow the Safety Directions.

Closely follow the instructions on the label, diluting the oil-based formulation with either diesel or high-flash kerosene. Spray the diluted herbicide liberally all around the trunk under the lowest lateral branch, liberally covering the trunk to a height of 30cm for trees less than 5cm in basal diameter and 60cm for larger plants. The tree will shed its leaves and die slowly, falling to pieces over several years to form litter on the ground.

*Always wear gloves and safety goggles whilst basal bark spraying environmental weeds
– your hands and eyes are more important than the weeds.*

Spot spraying

The object in environmental weed control is to selectively kill the weeds but not the surrounding native plants, so overall spraying of weeds with glyphosate is seldom a good idea. Overall spraying with glyphosate kills everything in the area, often allowing cobbler's pegs and other quick-growing weeds to come back instead of the native plants. Spot spraying with glyphosate should only be used where the weed canopy is so thick that underlying natives will not be damaged. Even then the sprayer pressure should be low and the spray droplets large so that spray drift is avoided. If there are small natives present they can sometimes be protected under an upturned bucket whilst spot spraying weeds such as kikuyu grass around them.

*Always wear gloves and safety goggles whilst spot spraying environmental weeds
– your hands and eyes are more important than the weeds.*