

Management strategies

How to treat

Silver-leaf nightshade is a weed of national significance.

Silver-leaf nightshade is difficult to kill. Plants can be spread by seed or root pieces. It is best to try to treat isolated plants and small patches as they appear. Extended and integrated control measures are vital to manage this weed.

Silver-leaf nightshade is toxic to animals, with cattle more susceptible than sheep. Good ground cover and competitive pastures such as lucerne can be a key element in controlling the spread of the plant.

The control strategy must aim to prevent berry-set at the early flowering stage as viable seeds can be found in young, green berries as small as 7 mm in diameter.

1. Treating isolated patches and small new infestations

Repeated spot spraying with Starane Advanced over several seasons will eventually control small areas of silver-leaf nightshade and ensure grass pastures can recover to compete with new germinations.

2. Treating extensive infestations

Starane Advanced at 600 mL/ha or 225 mL/ha + 1.6 L/ha Amine 625 is the best option for broadcast application on silver-leaf nightshade to greatly reduce plant numbers as well as being selective to grass pastures. Use of glyphosate should only be considered in fallow situations prior to planting crops or new pastures.

Perennial pastures provide ground cover and compete against silver-leaf nightshade, with phalaris-based pastures being the most competitive because of the amount of residue remaining over summer.

For best results

Best results are achieved when herbicides are applied when silver-leaf nightshade is actively growing and flowering.

Treatment tips

Always add Uptake Spraying Oil at 1 L/ha when using Starane Advanced as a boom spray application.

Repeated applications of herbicides over several seasons will be required to keep this weed under control.



Silver-leaf nightshade

(*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)



Starane[®]
Advanced
HERBICIDE



Silver-leaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)

Description

Silver-leaf nightshade is a deep-rooted summer-growing perennial plant from the tomato family Solanaceae.

It is an erect, bushy plant growing 30 to 80 cm high. It reproduces by seed and from creeping perennial roots.

Growth above ground from existing root systems appears in October or November. Plants flower from November or December to April and fruit is commonly set in February.

Plants die back before winter but the dead stems with berries usually remain standing for a few months. The seeds germinate in autumn and the young plants produce an extensive root system in their first few months.

Stems – Erect, branched, densely covered in fine hairs and with numerous slender orange prickles.

Leaves – Silvery white underside due to dense cover of minute white hairs, 2.5 to 10 cm long, 1 to 2 cm wide, often with orange prickles on the veins.

Flowers – Usually purple to violet, occasionally white, commonly 2.5 cm in diameter but up to 4.0 cm diameter with five fused petals forming a shallow tube and five yellow anthers.

Fruit – A smooth globular berry about 1.0 to 1.5 cm diameter, green with dark striations when immature and yellow and orange mottled and becoming wrinkled when ripe. There can be up to 60 per plant.

Timing

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	✗	✗	🌀	✓	✓	✓	🌀	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

KEY:

- ✓ Best time to spray/treat
- 🌀 Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable
- ✗ Do not spray/treat

Herbicides for control of silver-leaf nightshade

Product [#]	Method of application	Rate [†]	State
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	Boom application	450 to 600 mL/ha + 1 L/ha Uptake® Spraying Oil	All
Tordon® 75-D Herbicide	Foliar spray	650 mL/100 L of water	NSW, SA, Vic
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	Foliar spray	300 mL/100 L of water	All
FallowBoss® TORDON® Herbicide	Boom application	15 L/ha	NSW, SA, Vic

[#] Note: Preferred product option in bold. [†] Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given.



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