

Management strategies

How to treat

Thistles are widespread throughout Australia and the key to long-term management is controlling the plants before they mature to produce viable seed.

1. Treating small patches or limited infestations

Isolated plants or small patches can be removed using the appropriate tools such as a hoe or mattock. Ensure that you remove as much of the root system as possible so that regrowth does not occur. It's important to be careful that you do not transport the plant to other areas to reduce the potential for spreading seed.

Isolated small rosette plants can be treated with Vigilant II by applying it to at least 50% of the leaves of the plant, wiping the applicator along the middle of each leaf.

2. Treating thistles in grass pastures

Before spraying, lightly graze the the pasture to reduce clover and grass cover and expose smaller thistles to the spray. The grazed pasture should be left seven days to allow thistles to freshen up prior to treatment with Lontrel Advanced + MCPA amine by boom application during early winter or spring.



3. Treating more extensive infestations around fencelines, animal yards, etc.

For more extensive thistle infestations, it is recommended to use Grazon Extra at 150 mL per 100 L of water (1.5 mL per 1 L) as a foliar spray with a knapsack or 12 volt sprayer. A higher herbicide-to-water mix ratio is appropriate for more intense infestations or if you are spraying the weed on the boundaries of the recommended spray timing. As always, check the label before application.

For best results

- With Grazon Extra, ensure you spray the entire leaf area of the plant, with thorough coverage of the crown (where the stems meet) all the way to the tips. For best results, ensure you treat when thistles are actively growing, up to flowering. This will ensure maximum uptake of the chemical into the root system.

Treatment tips

- Slashing is not effective as thistles grow from the base of the plant and even immature plant heads can contain viable seed.
- The hairy leaves of thistles can impact on the absorption of the chemical into the plant, so it's important to consult the label for directions before undertaking a spray application.
- Grazon Extra and Lontrel Advanced will affect legumes in the pasture.



Thistles (Scotch and nodding)

(*Cirsium* spp., *Carthamus* spp.)



Lontrel®
Advanced
HERBICIDE



Thistles (*Cirsium* spp., *Carthamus* spp.)

Description

Thistles are erect flowering plants that typically stand around 2 m in height, with spiny leaves and stems. Early identification during the rosette stage of growth ensures easier control options.

Scotch thistle

The flowers are made up of many small flower heads and are purple in colour. The stem and leaves on the plant are a whitish grey due to a fairly dense covering of short hairs.

Spear thistle

The flowers are purple in colour and made up of many little florets (tiny flowers), with spines on the stem and leaves. The stem leaves can grow up to 25 cm long and have a cobwebby texture.

Saffron thistle

The flowers can range from yellow to orange-yellow, and are surrounded by thin spiny offshoots that can grow up to 5 cm long. The leaves themselves are usually hairless, but can occasionally grow with hairs and the stems are hairless.

Timing

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	✓	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Hotshot® Herbicide	✓	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lontrel® Advanced Herbicide	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	⚙	⚙	⚙	✗	✗
Vigilant® II Herbicide	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	⚙	✓	✓	✓

KEY:

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

Herbicides for control of thistles

Product [#]	Method of application	Rate [†]	State
Lontrel® Advanced Herbicide	Boom application	25 or 35 mL/ha + 1 or 1.5 L/ha MCPA amine (500 g/L)	NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic
Lontrel® Advanced Herbicide	Boom application	1 L/ha	All
Hotshot® Herbicide	Foliar spray	500 mL/100 L of water	All
Lontrel® Advanced Herbicide	Foliar spray	125 mL/100 L of water	NSW, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	150 mL/100 L of water	All
Trezac® Arylex® active Herbicide	Foliar spray	200 mL + 300 mL Starane® Advanced/100 L of water	All
Vigilant® II Herbicide	Leaf wiping	Neat: 50% leaf area	All

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



For more information call toll free **1800 899 147** or visit us at **www.woodyweedspecialists.com.au**

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