

Management strategies

How to treat

Overgrazing is a major cause of blue heliotrope infestation as it allows the plant to take hold and grow. One of the best ways to achieve long-term control is to maintain competitive pasture growth. The plant contains toxins known as pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which are poisonous to stock if ingested, highly toxic to horses and pigs but not so much to sheep and cattle as some of the alkaloids are broken down in the ruminant digestive system. The plant tends to be avoided due to its relatively low palatability, however some animals continue to graze indiscriminately.

1. Treating small patches or limited infestations

When treating single plants or limited infestations, cultivation (turning over the soil to expose the roots of the plant) is an effective method of providing short-term control, however there is also the danger that you may exacerbate the problem by spreading root fragments. Cultivation is best carried out after a herbicide treatment.

2. Treating more extensive infestations

For more extensive infestations we recommend the use of Grazon® Extra Herbicide as a foliar spray at a mix rate of 500 mL of Grazon Extra per 100 L of water (5 mL per 1 L of water).

For best results

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 the plant is actively growing and commencing flowering. This will ensure maximum uptake of the chemical into the root system.

Treatment tips

- Avoid treating if the plant is damaged or under stress due to unfavourable growing conditions, especially when frosted during winter.
- Ensure with any treatment undertaken that you follow up to check for regrowth.
- Clean equipment and machinery to minimise the spread of the plant.

[Refer to the Woody Weed app for further details.](#)



Blue heliotrope

(Heliotropium amplexicaule)



Grazon® Extra
HERBICIDE



Blue heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*)

Description

Blue heliotrope is a sprawling, perennial herb typically growing to about 60 cm in diameter. The plant has a large, well-developed root system. The leaves are lanceolate (tapering to a point) in shape and can grow to 2–9 cm in length and 0.4–2.5 cm wide. They are a dull-green colour and are covered in short hairs.

Blue heliotrope has flowers that are arranged in a caterpillar-like formation, featuring 0–7 distinctively curved branches depending on the size of the plant. The flowers themselves sit in two parallel rows along the branches, with petals

between 5.5–8 mm in length. The flowers are purple to blue in colour with yellow centres, and can be found on the plant for most of the year, apart from in winter in more southern areas.



Timing

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	✗	⚙️	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙️	✗	✗	✗	✗
Tordon® 75-D Herbicide	✗	⚙️	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙️	✗	✗	✗	✗
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	✗	⚙️	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⚙️	✗	✗	✗	✗

KEY:

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

Herbicides for control of blue heliotrope

Product [#]	Method of application	Rate [†]	State
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	500 mL/100 L of water	All
Tordon® 75-D Herbicide	Foliar spray	1 L/100 L of water	NSW, Qld
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	Foliar spray	600 mL/100 L of water	All

[#] 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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