

WEED OF THE season

GORSE

The bright yellow flowers of *Ulex europaeas* are all too familiar throughout New Zealand.

Our worst weed was originally introduced as a hedging and ornamental plant and is now established on thousands of hectares of farmland regardless of climate or soil conditions.

Spiny, woody, very long-lived and unfortunately endowed with many natural survival benefits (including a huge seed crop and the ability to fix its own N), gorse is currently coming into the one time of year when it is most vulnerable to herbicide applications. The soft new growth that follows the main flowering typically occurs in December/January, before hardening off in February, although these timings vary according to region.

Appropriate herbicide treatment at this stage of the plant's lifecycle is but one element of a successful control programme; others include burning or crushing, oversowing, and follow up seedling spray out, as well as good grazing management to prevent re-infestation.

Planned brushweed control is a long-term process that rewards commitment and patience with more productive grazing land.

For dense gorse, pasture renewal, or spot-spraying low producing pastures, **Trounce® Gorsekiller** gives broad spectrum, non-residual control. It is clover-friendly, and can be followed straight away with new grass.

Other options include **Associate® 600 WDG** and **Scrubcutter®**.

For more information, contact 0800 4 GORSE 0800 446 773



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