



Case studies

David and Stacey Lindsay, 'Roblyn', Warialda NSW



PROPERTY DETAILS

Location: 15 kilometres west of Warialda, northern New South Wales

Catchment: Mosquito Creek, Gwydir River catchment

Property area: 730 hectares

Main enterprises: Beef cattle production

Where lippia is a problem: Floodplain grazing country, creek riparian zone, contour banks and waterways on higher country



David Lindsay checking lippia around a stock watering dam

(Photo by P. Crawford)

General information and lippia infestation

The area around Mosquito Creek is predominantly undulating low hills. David Lindsay thinks lippia probably first appeared after a major flood in the 1970s. During a twelve month period from 1999 to 2000 six floods were recorded, contributing significantly to the expansion of lippia on the property. Over the last five years, the infested area on 'Roblyn' has increased significantly and lippia is now encroaching into gullies and watercourses away from the creek. Currently, more than 50% of the property has scattered lippia present and the total land area covered by lippia is approximately 5% of the property. An eight hectare area of the property has 100% lippia cover present. All dams and contour banks are covered with lippia, as well as small depressions in hillsides.

David uses a rotational grazing system to manage the pastures on the property and considers that the stocking rate is fairly conservative. The property is subdivided into twenty paddocks, with the cows occupying the larger paddocks and weaners and steers run in the smaller paddocks.

It is interesting to note that one particular area of grass near the creek is rarely grazed by the cattle as they tend to graze some higher, lighter country in the paddock where the grasses are presumably more palatable. This lower area has some good quality pasture but no lippia present and this is probably due to the under-grazing. David considers that this could indicate that grazing management practices do play an important role in the spread and control of lippia.

Traditionally, the only country cultivated on the property has been in selected paddocks where forage crops, such as oats, are grown for winter feed. In recent years, David has had to plough other paddocks, just for lippia control. One former grass paddock close to the creek was virtually 100% lippia so this paddock is now used to grow oats or other forage crops for the cattle.



Methods of lippia management

Apart from conservative grazing management, cultivation is the main method of lippia control. With conservative stocking, the property is well grassed at all times and this assists in the suppression of lippia. The decision to cultivate areas of native pasture was solely based on the suppression of lippia and the ability to generate income from the land. David has carried out some limited chemical control, without much success.

Some of the higher country has been planted with Bambatsi and this country does not have any lippia present, indicating that the vigorous growing habit of this species makes it very effective for lippia control.

Future control options

David and Stacey consider that the only options for lippia in the future will be to cultivate more areas of low-lying grass country and plant back to an introduced pasture species, such as Bambatsi panic. In the meantime, David may carry out some chemical control work based on the information arising from lippia chemical control trials.



The paddock in the rear has been cultivated to control lippia. David Lindsay is thinking he may have to cultivate the paddock in the foreground for the same reason

(Photo by P. Crawford)

