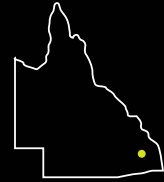




Case studies

David and Rhonda Ballin, 'Daisybank', Kingaroy Qld.



PROPERTY DETAILS

Location: 5 kms west of Kingaroy, southern Queensland

Catchment: Stuart River, Burnett River catchment

Property area: 140 hectares

Main enterprises: Beef cattle, forage crops for cattle (9 hectares of cultivated creek flats)

Where lippia is a problem: Pasture and cropping paddocks



David Ballin with lippia patches in a low area in a native pasture paddock. Note the lighter soil type

(Photo by P. Crawford)

General information and lippia infestation

David is the Principal of Kingaroy State High School, and he and his wife Rhonda bought the property in 1997 after deciding to settle for the long-term in Kingaroy. They first noticed small patches of lippia in about 2001. The property is situated immediately downstream of the town of Kingaroy, so there is a regular flow of water in the Stuart River from storm runoff and treated water from the sewerage treatment plant. It is likely that the lippia has escaped from lawns and verges in Kingaroy.

Due to an ongoing control programme, there are only small isolated patches of lippia on the property. The riparian area of the river itself does not appear to have lippia established, at least on David and Rhonda's section of the river anyway. The riparian area is not grazed, and has a good cover of native grasses and vegetation that would make it difficult for lippia to establish.

A large dam has small patches of lippia around the banks, immediately below the high water level. David sprays these patches on a regular basis, but the seed bank must be high enough to encourage germination after water covers this zone.





Small areas of lippia are present around the edges of a dam

(Photo by P. Crawford)

Methods of lippia management

David spends much of his school holiday time walking the property with a knapsack sprayer looking for lippia patches. He uses Amicide® 625 2,4-D and is getting good results. David considers that he is managing to keep the lippia under control, but he emphasises the importance of an ongoing management programme. Once lippia is established, control of it must be incorporated into the overall property management programme.

Future control options

David thinks he has lippia more or less under control and it is not a problem as far as productivity is concerned. He realises that the control programme will need to be ongoing, especially as up-stream neighbours appear to be doing little or nothing to control the lippia on their properties.

