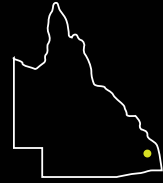




Case studies

Phil and Shirley Ballin, 'Camden', Nanango Qld.



PROPERTY DETAILS

Location: 4 kms west of Nanango, southern Queensland

Catchment: Barkers and Meandu Creeks, Burnett River catchment

Property area: 200 hectares

Main enterprises: Beef cattle, lucerne hay production (40 hectares of cultivated creek flats)

Where lippia is a problem: Pasture paddocks, lucerne paddocks



Lippia in rough melon-hole country

(Photo by P. Crawford)

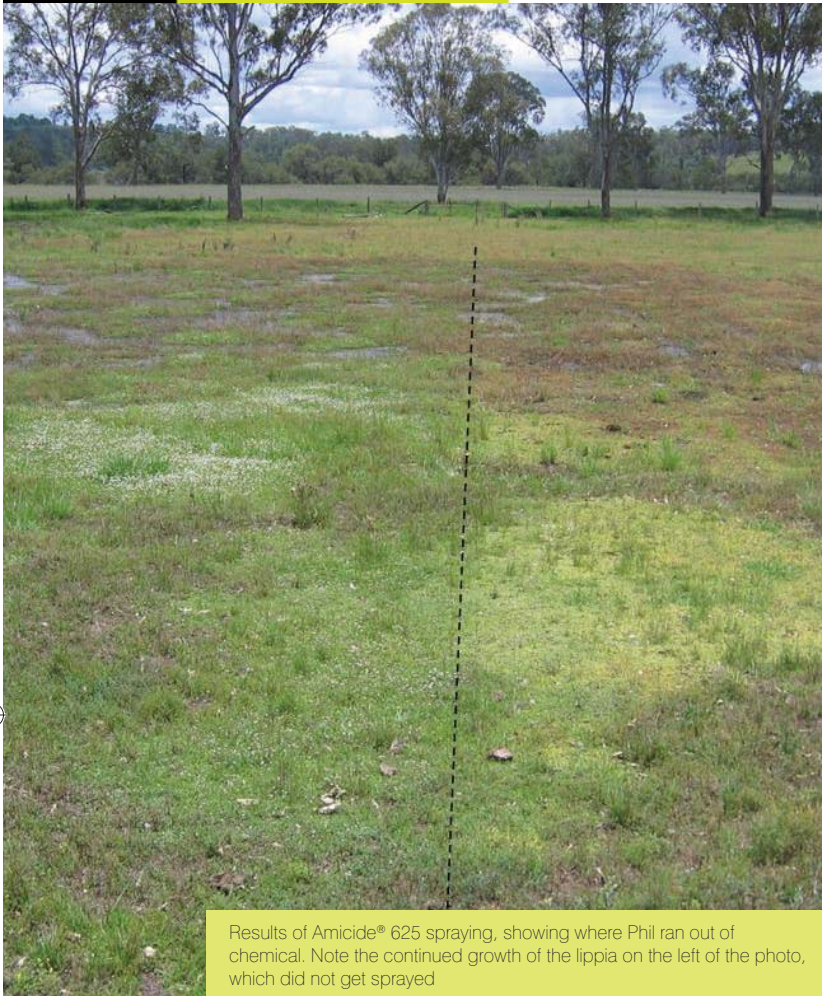
General information and lippia infestation

The majority of the property is floodplain country, and can be covered by up to thirty centimetres of water during a major flood. Phil first noticed lippia starting to spread in the early to mid 1970s on the lower floodplain country, and then into some naturally rough melon-hole country higher up. Lippia has also become established in patches in lighter sandy country above the floodplain.

There are now lippia patches over approximately seventy hectares, and it has appeared in a lucerne paddock that was sown only two years ago. This is a particular worry, not only from the lippia management perspective, but the potential for spreading lippia in hay could be a serious risk.

The creeks and watercourses all have some lippia present and the control options are limited due to environmental considerations.





Results of Amicide® 625 spraying, showing where Phil ran out of chemical. Note the continued growth of the lippia on the left of the photo, which did not get sprayed

(Photo by P. Crawford)



Phil Ballin in an excellent stand of Bambatsi panic

(Photo by P. Crawford)

Methods of lippia management

Phil has been using a boomspray to apply herbicide to areas of lippia for several years. He first used Agricrop Lantana® 600, but in recent years he has been using Amicide® 625 2,4-D as it is much cheaper, and he is getting good results. He has also been spot-spraying with 2,4-D along fencelines and in pasture paddocks.

The melon-hole country is particularly difficult to spray due to the extremely rough surface. Phil boomsprayed the paddock in 2006, but due to the subsequent very dry conditions, he could not follow-up with a second hit. However, a 100% lippia coverage was reduced to 50%, and he plans a double hit on the paddock in the following summer, which he is confident will result in close to a 100% kill.

Phil is not keen on ploughing out good grass, so at this stage he is relying on chemical control to manage the lippia.

Future control options

Phil believes that his spraying programme is working and he has the lippia under control. Lippia will always be present on the farm, but Phil is confident that with follow-up spraying every year he can keep on top of it.

Phil has some excellent Bambatsi pasture and he is very happy with this grass's ability to compete with lippia. However the lucerne country is a concern. It may mean that lucerne will need to be ploughed out and replaced every two to four years to keep the lippia under control.