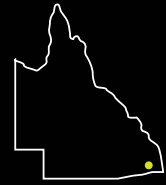




# Case studies

John and Cathy Cowley, 'Lentara', Clifton Qld.



## PROPERTY DETAILS

Location: 10 kms west of Allora, southern Queensland

Catchment: Dalrymple Creek, Condamine River catchment

Property area: 180 hectares (all grazing), 260 hectares leased (130 hectares cropping, 130 hectares grazing)

Main enterprises: Beef cattle, cereal grain production

Where lippia is a problem: Swampy country on floodplain areas



John Cowley in a magnificent stand of Bambatsi in a previously lippia infested paddock

(Photo by P. Crawford)

## General information and lippia infestation

John first noticed lippia in swampy areas and watercourses around 1993, mainly in small patches. One 20 hectare swampy block became 100% covered with lippia and after seeking advice from local pasture consultant David Illing, John decided to plough this paddock and plant an introduced pasture.





Cattle with plenty of feed for a couple of months

*(Photo by P. Crawford)*

## Future control options

The Bambatsi has seeded well and will be monitored over the next few years for any lippia that may establish in the paddock. Other areas of the property will be monitored for lippia, and it is possible that other small areas may be considered for pasture establishment.

John says that it is ironic that without the drought he would not have been able to get this paddock growing good pasture, and this would apply to all areas where lippia is established on swampy ground.

## Methods of lippia management

Normally the 20 hectare paddock would be too wet for machinery access, but the ongoing drought actually assisted, leaving the paddock dry enough to plough. The paddock was worked twice with a Sundercut disc plough in October 2004 to kill the lippia.

The pasture seed (a mix of Silk sorghum, Bambatsi and Floren Bluegrass) was aerielly broadcast on the paddock on Christmas Eve 2004, before a predicted rain event. However, the rain didn't eventuate and only small areas of Silk sorghum germinated in lighter soil around the edges of the paddock.

The paddock remained destocked from October 2004.

During the summer of 2005-06 there were storm rains and a flood event that covered the paddock with water. Bambatsi and some Floren started to appear, but also quite a lot of lippia. John sprayed the paddock twice with Amicide® 625 2,4-D at two litres per hectare over the summer and achieved a very good kill. However, the pasture was still very sparse.

After good rain and another flood in October 2006, John sprayed with 2,4-D (at two litres per hectare) and slashed the paddock. This helped to thicken the Bambatsi. At this stage, there was still not much Floren established, but the Bambatsi was starting to thicken up.

The paddock was grazed lightly from January 2007 until July 2007, during severe drought conditions. Following good rain and further flooding during the spring and early summer of 2007-08, the pasture started to establish, and there is now a very good cover of grass. The paddock was flooded four times during this period, and this has helped considerably with further pasture establishment. John introduced cattle back into the paddock in January 2008 after the grass had seeded.

There is still very little Floren, and being so palatable the cattle eat it first. There is virtually no lippia now, and it would be very unlikely for lippia to re-establish due to the thick grass and good groundcover. John is very careful with his grazing management and is committed to maintaining good groundcover at all times.

