SUMMER WEEDS SURVEY

Year:
2019 - 2021

Funding Provider:
Agronomo

Lead Organisation:

Collaborators
Liebe Group

Location:

PROJECT FUNDERS

REPORTS & LINKS

N/A

Aim:
To identify and define composition, distribution and population of summer weeds establishing in paddock in the wheat belt.

Project Information:
Summer weeds continue to be highly prevalent and reported as an issue by multiple RCSNs. Summer weeds are given a generic label when the reality is that they are extremely diverse both spatially and temporally.

Adoption of summer weed control is high with 88% of growers in this region using herbicides to control weeds during summer.

The suite of summer weeds present in a paddock and property can comprise many species which often changes over a season through staggered germination.

Between January and April 2020 197 paddocks were surveyed for relative abundance and distribution.

There were 49 broadleaf and 14 grass species excluding volunteer crop and pasture species. The number of summer broadleaf species for each Agzone ranged from 19 to 31 species while grasses ranged from 2 to 9 species. Agzones 2, 4, and 5 have the highest number of species.

The most common and widespread summer broadleaf weeds across the cropping belt are mintweed, paddy melon, Afghan melon, caltrop, wild radish, mallow and wild turnip. Capeweed was the most numerous broadleaf weed however it was the third most widespread after mintweed and paddy melon. Flatweed (Hypochaeris radicata) was found in all Agzones at low densities. The most common summer grass weeds are stink grass, button grass and small burrgrass while annual ryegrass was the most numerous and widespread grass species overall.

The same paddocks were surveyed during the 2020-21 summer.