

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Research Project Seven:

Invasive Native Scrub management – Coolibah/Blackbox

What is this project about?

This case study will look at the need and options for managing Invasive Native Scrub (INS) in the Endangered Ecological Community of Coolibah/Black Box (CBB) in the Northern Darling Riverine Plains.

It specifically looks at the regrowth of Coolibah and Blackbox suckers within the CBB Endangered Ecological Community. This regrowth occurs prolifically after heavy flooding events and may out-compete other species in the CBB vegetation community, leading to a locked up stand of CBB with very few other species present. These areas have reduced ecological value and no production value, compared with mature open woodland.

Research is happening to explore in more detail whether it is possible to improve and maintain CBB vegetation communities by treating CBB INS. The project will test whether (and how) INS treatment and ongoing management can deliver improved environmental outcomes as well as improving production.

The project is being run by the Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in conjunction with the Cotton CRC, the University of New England and the local landholder community.

Why is it being done?

This project will examine a range of options to reduce tree competition and restore ground cover designed in conjunction with local landholders for effectively managing CBB INS within CBB Endangered Ecological Communities.

The project came about through community support in the Namoi catchment for research on local INS issues. It investigates options for effectively treating this type of INS and employing ongoing management practices that enhance the biodiversity value and improve the production value of the affected areas.

How can I be involved?

Please contact the Namoi CMA team in Walgett on 02 6828 0110 for more information about the project and ways that you may be involved. The project will include field days to view the treatment areas and discuss the findings and results to date.



“It specifically looks at the regrowth of Coolibah and Blackbox suckers within the CBB Endangered Ecological Community.”

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

About the overall INS Research Program

A range of research and communication projects dealing with Invasive Native Scrub (INS) are being undertaken in central-west and western NSW. This is a serious issue across the region and can have an adverse impact on habitats, wider landscape health, communities and farming operations.

The research program builds on community involvement, landholder knowledge and scientific research to complement and update previous INS studies.

It will ultimately lead to a better understanding of how INS treatment options vary between areas and need to be accommodated. Our intent is that regulations, incentives and advice will facilitate rather than constrain good practice.

The overall product will be a resource outlining what we

have learned from landholders and the research projects – what INS management techniques work under different circumstances.

This resource will provide a means of distributing research findings widely amongst landholders, government agencies and policy-makers alike.

Preliminary information is expected to be released mid-2008.

Various researchers and organisations are running the research projects and the overall program is coordinated by the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

Want to be involved?

We are keen to work with the farming community on these projects and hope you are able to help. Local knowledge and experience, and access to INS sites for research are vital to the success of the program.

To be involved or updated on the program's progress, please contact the Central West CMA:

Email: Rodney.campbell@cma.nsw.gov.au

Fax: 02 6881 3401

Post: PO Box 2105, Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: 02 6881 3430

Your details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Area of interest:

- General interest in INS
- Interested in INS management information
- Have INS sites on my property available for research
- Would like to share experiences in managing INS
- Would like to share examples of INS treatment
- Other _____

Your personal information will remain within the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and will not be divulged to other organisations.