

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Research Project Eight: Short-term Cropping and Invasive Native Scrub

What is this project about?

Many believe that opportunistic cropping is the only economically viable means of treating Invasive Native Scrub (INS) and regenerating native perennial grasses.

However, there is little documented evidence of its effectiveness, and little scientific data to indicate how the transition from crop to regenerated grassland can best be managed.

This project will help us understand the relationship between cropping and native perennial grassland regeneration in the western catchment area.

This project is being run by Yohannes Alemseged from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Why is it being done?

The objective of this study is to evaluate the benefits of opportunistic cropping in restoring native perennial grasslands in the western catchment area.

If this research indicates that the practice is generally effective, then the project will develop into a BMP for the management of INS using short-term cropping.

If the data suggest that the transition from crop to grassland may require additional management inputs under some circumstances then this research will serve as a basis for developing further projects to define these requirements.

How can I be involved?

Landholder participation is essential to the success of the project. Landholders are invited to contribute to this project through allowing researchers to conduct sampling on their properties in the regional survey.

Participating landholders will also be asked to complete a simple survey to document some aspects of the history of the paddocks and to record their experience and observations on opportunistic cropping and subsequent regeneration.



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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.