



Group Leader – Weeding

Specific responsibilities

The focus of this role is to ensure effective and safe practice amongst volunteers, and systematic eradication of pest weeds to support planting.

Principles

The Weeding Group leader is responsible for

- Providing supervision by a trained regular volunteer (Group Leader) for every weeding group
- Informing Day Coordinator where each group is going to work, and how many people are weeding
- Giving hazards briefing, Health and Safety briefing according to briefing protocols; shows crew the location of First Aid and Emergency numbers
- Demonstrating safe handling of necessary equipment - safe use of saws, secateurs, protective gear, chemical handling procedures and prohibitions
- Checking volunteers have adequate strong foot wear, no health hazards (allergic reaction potential) Offer gumboots and overalls
- Ensuring volunteers work in pairs or threes (buddy system) for safety and efficiency – team processes, more eyes to spot weeds.

On location, Weeding Group Leader should:

- Give Safety and Hazards Briefing at worksite
- Check again that volunteers have all necessary protective clothing and footwear
- Check volunteers are physically fit if weeding tasks are strenuous eg on steep slopes or dense bush
- Revise/teach weed identification – different plant stages
- Show exact location where work is to be done
- Identify priority weeds, show volunteers methods of eradication, safety practices, set tasks and call time
- Ensure return of equipment, note achievements for weed diary
- Report work accomplished in weed diary.

Weeding Guidelines

- Volunteers will generally use gels rather than sprays or liquids. If sprays or liquids are to be used the supervisor must hold a current “Approved Handler” certification, and should not supervise more than three people
- All volunteers require close supervision and should be physically fit
- Whether gels or sprays are applied, weeds must be cut of 50-70 mm above ground level by secateurs or saw depending on the stem thickness. Gels

require a full “blob” at least 3 mm thick to be left on the stump; sprays must cover the cut stump fully

- Gel applicators must be kept away from the dirt. Soil inactivates glyphosate
- Saw blades and secateurs must not contact the soil or rocks, they can lose their sharp cutting edges very quickly
- Chemicals must be used “fresh”, preferably mixed on the day
- Spring and Summer targets for volunteers are Mothplant, Rhamnus and mature and juvenile Woolly Nightshade
- Autumn targets and priorities move to mature Mothplant with pods, and specifically removal of pods.