



Asphodelus fistulosus

Photos: M. Kealley, S.J. Patrick, K.C. Richardson & K.R. Thiele

Management Notes (for the Swan NRM Region)

Kate Brown and Karen Bettink, Thursday 8 September 2011

Alternative Names. Asphodelus, Wild Onion, Hollow-stemmed Asphodel.

General Biology. *Growth form.* Herb. *Life form.* Perennial. *Reproduction.* Seed. *Dispersal.* Wind, machinery, water, clothing. *Toxicity.* Reported to cause dermatitis. *Seedbank persistence.* Several years.

Notes. May be annual, biennial or a short-lived perennial. Principally a weed of alkaline sandy or gravelly well-drained soils in winter rainfall areas. Often found on sandy coastal sites and disturbed areas. Frequent in sites with low nutrient levels and may depend on its mycorrhizal associates for nutrients and growth. Frost and drought-hardy once established. Capable of growing and spreading rapidly. Flowers are monoecious (have both male and female parts) and are insect pollinated. Produces prolific seed. Germination usually occurs within 1-3 months of seed maturity at 15°C. Seeds germinate at any time of year however the main flush occurs during late summer and autumn. Seed is dispersed through wind-blown old inflorescences still bearing seed in capsules. Plants growing from seed usually develop flowers at 18 months. After spring, the flowering portion dies away. Leaves remain over summer and new leaves are produced from the base of the plant the following autumn. Declared plant in Victoria.

Suggested method of management and control. Hand pull small infestations. Apply metsulfuron-methyl at 0.1 g /10 L + 100 ml spray oil when flowering. Read the manufacturers' labels and material safety data sheets before using herbicides. For further information consult the [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#) to determine the status of permits for your situation or state.

Management Calendar Legend: Y = Yes, regularly, O = Occasionally, U = Uncertain, referred by others but not confirmed.

Calendar Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Active Growth					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Germination	O	O	O	O	U	U	U	U	O	O	O	O
Flowering							Y	Y	Y	Y		
Fruiting									Y	Y	Y	
Manual Removal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Herbicide Treatment							Y	Y	Y	Y		

FROM: <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/browse/profile.php/1364>