











Silverleaf Nightshade Weed

NSW Primary Industries and Murrumbidgee Landcare have a new collaborative project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) which will target the perennial summer weed Silverleaf Nightshade (SLN) across the five states of Q'ld, NSW, Victoria, SA and WA.

Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) is an introduced perennial weed that can dominate pastures and cropping areas. It can reduce crop yields by as much as 20-40% by taking moisture and nutrients over summer and autumn that could be used by following crops. In pasture paddocks it can reduce growth of productive species and render areas useless for livestock grazing. It reproduces from both seed and root fragments so can be difficult to control by conventional means. Many common farm activities such as livestock movement and cultivation will spread this weed. Research has shown that up to 90% of seeds remain viable after passing through the gut of sheep, so it is easily spread by grazing animals.

Current research has shown that the best control methods involve targeting the weed with a dual action firstly to prevent the seed set in summer and then to run down the root reserves with a follow up control in autumn. Combined with competitive crops and pasture over several years has given successful control of the weed.

Phil Bowden from Murrumbidgee Landcare will present workshops to raise awareness of the problem and show best practices to control this weed.

A local workshop will be held on

Tuesday 2 September 2014

Commencing at 9am

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conference Room
Research Station Rd, Hanwood

Program:

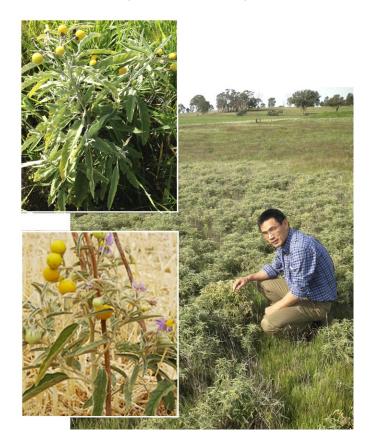
8-30am Tea/Coffee

9-00am

- Current research
- Best management practice discussion
- MLA project and requirements for demonstration trial sites

11-00am Tea/Coffee break

11-30am Site visits to inspect SLN problem areas close by (MI access tracks & cropping/pasture infestations)



For further information please contact Phil Bowden on M:0427201946 or Cathy Semmler at Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 69620200.