

# Weed management in transplanted and direct-seeded brassicas

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**Summary** The options for weed management in commercial brassica crops, including broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage in Australia are limited. Currently, mechanical methods are the principal means of weed control, as the crop is generally planted from container grown transplants (with the exception of broadacre systems in Queensland and New South Wales). Cultivation of soil to remove weeds can result in damage to the crops, and stimulates weed germination. Current registered herbicides do not control a number of common weeds. An increase in the use of direct seeding for brassica production has further complicated weed management, as the currently used herbicides can cause damage to direct seeded crops.

This project, funded by Horticulture Australia is evaluating a range of new herbicides to be added as part of an integrated weed management program in both direct seeded and transplanted brassica crops. It is a collaborative project between Agronico Pty Ltd and Serve-Ag Research. Early screening trials identified a number of herbicides with potential for use in transplanted and direct seeded brassica production. These products have now been screened in replicated trials in major production areas throughout the country, enabling registration data to be collected.

**Keywords** cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, weed management, herbicides, direct seeded.