

WEED FILE:

CREEPING YELLOW CRESS



DESCRIPTION

Creeping Yellow Cress : *Rorippa sylvestris*

This is a brassica-type plant originally from temperate regions of Europe and Asia.

It's common throughout New Zealand, and forms dense infestations especially on low-lying pastures and other ground adjacent to rivers.

The plant is a smallish, hairless perennial herb, producing straggling growth up to about 70cm in height. Its creeping rhizomes result in stands of creeping yellow cress that can smother infected pasture land.

The flowers are yellow, 4-6mm in diameter, and grow on thin, erect stems. Each flower has four separated petals. Flowering occurs Dec –Feb. In dense infestations, the flowers form a spectacular if unwelcome display.

The leaves have toothed margins, and are variable in shape. The lower, rosette leaves are deeply divided into up to ten lobes. The upper leaves on the flower stalk are smaller, with fewer lobes.

The stem structure comprises creeping rhizomes, plus the skinny erect flower stems. Roots are spreading, creeping rhizomes that establish new roots at the nodes.

HABITAT

The most common sites for creeping yellow cress are cultivated ground, gardens and market gardens, damp pasture and riverbeds. Particularly common in the Waikato.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

Spraying before flowering will give the best results.

- **Decision** herbicide at 50g/Ha plus a suitable spraying oil added at 1L/ha. Use 100 – 300L of water per hectare, with the higher rate for very dense infestations.

This treatment is grass and clover friendly.

A second, follow-up treatment at the same rates will be necessary the next season, because creeping yellow cress is a perennial, and some regrowth is inevitable in the year after first spraying. Further treatments in subsequent years will likely be needed to control seedling growth.