

The black wattle (i) stump fungus, *Cylindrobasidium laeve* (Pers.) Chamuris., is used as an inoculant on stumps of freshly felled black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) to prevent coppice re-growth of these stumps (ii). It can also be used for the same purpose on green (*Acacia decurrens*) and golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*). However, it cannot be used on Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), nor on silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*).

#### DESCRIPTION

The black wattle stump fungus does not cause disease because it is not a pathogen, but a wood-rotting saprophytic fungus, which feeds by breaking down dead wood. Although it may also invade the still-living tissue of fallen trees as a primary coloniser of the wood, it has no impact on actively growing trees. This fungus does not produce any large fruiting bodies, but may sometimes be seen as a white layer covering the wood below the bark of inoculated stumps. However, it generally remains unseen as microscopic growth in the wood. The fungus was originally isolated from dead black wattle stumps near George, Western Cape, and is indigenous to South Africa. Testing demonstrated that this fungus does not invade pruned fruit trees and, therefore, it can be used safely in orchards and other agricultural situations, and is also suitable for use against environmental invasions.

#### DAMAGE TO PLANTS

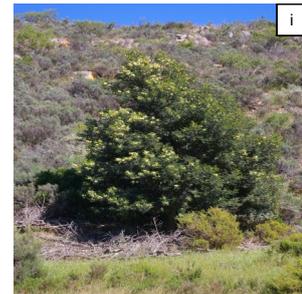
The fungus was developed as a user- and environmentally-friendly treatment on cut stumps of black wattle, as well as on golden and green wattle. It prevents the establishment of vigorous coppice growth of these wattles. However, as with chemical treatment of cut stumps of felled wattles, the trees need to be felled correctly, and the application of the stump fungus must be managed correctly for effective control.

#### IMPACT ON BLACK WATTLE

After felling black wattle trees, the stumps either have to be treated with a registered herbicide or the stump fungus, to prevent the stumps from resprouting and forming multi-stemmed trees. Spores of the fungus are supplied in mineral oil (iii), which are mixed in cooking oil and applied to freshly cut stumps. These are obtained from ARC-PPRI Stellenbosch, see below for contact details. The fungus can be applied at any time of the year, throughout South Africa. Treated stumps should not produce any coppice growth, but even if this is initiated, the stump will still die within 9 months of treatment (iv). Generally, trees should be felled as close to the ground as possible, since the closer to ground they are felled, the faster the stumps will die, and the more successful the treatment will be. The ideal height for felling is no higher than ankle height, approximately 10 cm above ground level.

#### ORDERING INFORMATION:

Orders for the stump fungus must be placed at least a month in advance, and directed to Ms Gwen Samuels. E-mail: [SamuelsG@arc.agric.za](mailto:SamuelsG@arc.agric.za) Tel: (021) 887 4690 Fax: (021) 886 6479. Production of the fungus takes about 25 days.



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