

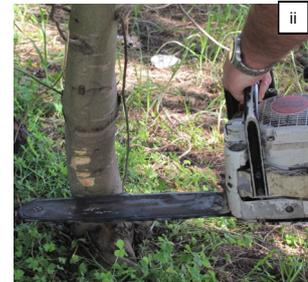
The black wattle stump fungus, *Cylindrobasidium laeve* (Pers.) Chamuris., is used as an inoculant on stumps of freshly felled black wattle to prevent coppice re-growth of these stumps. It can also be used for the same purpose on green (*Acacia decurrens*) and golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*). However, it cannot be used on Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), nor on silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). Of these wattles, black and silver can easily be confused. It is essential that the wattles to be treated are identified correctly. Black wattle has small glands both at and between the junctions of the pinnae pairs along the main stems of the leaves (i). In contrast, silver wattle only has these glands at the junctions.

The fungus is supplied in small plastic sachets, which contain fungal spores suspended in 10 ml of mineral oil mixed with talc. Carefully read the directions on the label before use.

METHOD OF USING THE STUMP FUNGUS

- For best results fell the trees at ankle height, approximately 10 cm above ground level (ii).
- Sachets should be refrigerated ($\pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$) until the day of use.
- Do not use after the expiry date.
- Ensure that all sachets taken into the field are kept cool, and that they are not exposed to direct sunlight. Preferably keep them in a cooler box with ice packs.
- Before using a sachet, rub it vigorously between your hands. This ensures that the spores are not sticking to the plastic sachet.
- Pour 400 ml cooking oil into a clean can, plastic container, or old-fashioned sauce bottle with a narrow spout. Add the contents of the sachet, and mix thoroughly (iii).
- Using a small paintbrush or stick, dab a drop (± 0.5 ml) of the oil suspension on the freshly cut stump of felled trees. This should happen within no more than 30 minutes of felling, preferably immediately after felling.
- For small diameter stumps of less than or up to 4 cm diameter, place oil in the centre of the stump (iv insert).
- For stumps larger than 4 cm diameter, spread the oil (1-2 ml) evenly around the circumference of the stump, just inside from the bark. It is not necessary to cover the entire stump (iv).
- Shake the oil mixture regularly to ensure the spores remain evenly suspended.
- At the end of the day, discard any oil mixture that has not been used — do not keep overnight for use the following day as the spores will lose their viability.
- After 6 to 9 months, carry out a follow-up clearing operation, eradicating any establishing seedlings and treating any stumps that have not been killed.

ORDERING INFORMATION: All 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
Tel: (021) 887 4690. Fax: (021) 886 6479. Production of the fungus takes about 25 days.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

