



ARC • LNR

PLANT PROTECTION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

WATTLE STUMP FUNGUS
(*Cylindrobasidium laeve*)

Black wattle stumps which had resprouted and then died were found to be common in the George area (Western Cape). Dead stumps were often partially covered with a white fungus growth. This fungus was isolated, grown in culture and found to be able to infect and kill black wattle stumps. Trials are currently in progress to assess the efficacy of the fungus as a stump treatment. Preliminary results look very promising and may lead to registration of the fungus as a mycoherbicide. We would, however, appreciate it if you would test it in your area and let us know what results you obtain.

CONTENTS OF SACHET Fungal spores, talc and mineral oil.

- 1 **Store in a refridgerator at 5⁰C (not deep freeze). Use within 3 months.** We suggest you obtain a small "6-pack" cooler box and several freezer blocks and use this to take a day's supply of sachets into the field each day. Keep the box in the shade.
- 2 **Rub a sachet well between finger and thumb** before opening to resuspend the spores as they tend to settle out.
- 3 **Cut off the point of the sachet and squeeze the contents out into 100 ml sunflower cooking oil.** Only mix enough suspension for use in 1 day
- 4 **Stir or shake well.**
- 5 **Apply 1-2 drops of the oil suspension to the freshly cut stump surface with a small brush, squeeze bottle, oil can or any other suitable object.** Make sure the applicators and containers were not previously used for toxic chemicals. **Stir or shake regularly.** (At this application rate 100ml oil suspension could treat 500 to 1000 stumps).
- 6 **Remember that you are working with a living fungus.** Therefore do not leave containers standing in the sun etc. otherwise the fungus will die and not infect the stumps.
- 7 **The fungus may take from 4 to approximately 12 months to kill the stumps.** In the meantime the stumps may resprout and look healthy so don't be prematurely disappointed.
- 8 **The fungus may spread between stumps under suitable weather conditions but try to apply it to all stumps as spread between stumps may be inconsistent.**
- 9 **Mark and treat a block of stumps with the fungus and leave a second block of stumps untreated at least 100 m (preferably further as the fungus may spread) from the treated stumps so that you can compare the results.**

Please feed back your results to me at the below address with any comments you may have regarding application procedures etc.

Dr Mike Morris
Plant Protection Research Institute
P/Bag X5017
Stellenbosch 7599