

Treatment of submersed aquatic weeds

During this year's irrigation offseason, we'll be undertaking an aquatic weed treatment program to improve flow rates in our channel system.

In some parts of the irrigation system, submersed aquatic weeds such as Sagittaria, Ribbon weed and Egeria are choking GMW's channels.

The weeds affect water flow, promote silting and cause problems with the automated regulators, which can reduce the ability to deliver water to our customers.

Treating submersed aquatic weeds ensures a more consistent water supply for our customers.

Limited in-season options are available to control submersed aquatic weeds. This year, GMW will be using herbicide to treat aquatic weeds in various channels impacted by submersed weeds.

What will happen?

During the non-irrigation period from 16 May to 14 August:

- Water will remain in the channel system until the end of the irrigation season (last day is 15 May 2026).
- Herbicide will be applied into the static water to treat the aquatic weeds. From the time of application, there is a no water use period until the irrigation season begins again on August 15.
- Water will be available for delivery from 15 August – the first day of the new irrigation season.

What does this mean for crops and stock?

In diluted form, the herbicide GMW uses has a very low toxicity to humans and mammals,



Egeria and Ribbon weed

however, there is a withhold period that needs to be followed.

Livestock should not ingest the channel water as traces of the chemical may register in their produce.

Horticulture and broad-acre crops must not be sprayed with channel water during this time.

What you need to do

Before the treatment on your channels, you will need to:

- Make alternative arrangements for winter domestic and stock water supplies. You cannot rely on water remaining in the irrigation channels over the winter period.
- Prevent stock from accessing the channels.

More information

For more information about the treatment program please visit your local Customer Service Centre or call us on 1800 013 357.