

VIGILANT® - FAQs

How many stems can one brush bottle of VIGILANT® treat?

As a guide, one 240 gram brush bottle can treat approximately 120 stems of 25 mm diameter (with a 5mm dollop of gel on each stem).

How long does it take for the gel to be absorbed into the stem?

On fine warm days, the gel is absorbed into the treated plant over 4 hours. In cooler, damp locations, the gel may take up to 2 days to be absorbed into the cut stem.

At what time of the year should I use VIGILANT®?

VIGILANT® can be used year round in New Zealand, although the effectiveness may decrease slightly in colder months and cooler climates.

Is there any likelihood of plants close to a VIGILANT®-treated plant being affected by the product?

In our trials we have not seen any off-target effects from the use of VIGILANT®. However VIGILANT® is a very active herbicide registered specifically for use on a range of hard to kill weed species. Caution should be taken when using this product. Any contact with or contamination of other plant species, whether through spillage, soil contamination or roots touching, may cause damage to adjacent plants. Some plants are more sensitive to herbicides than others. For example, roses appear particularly sensitive to a wide range of herbicides (not just VIGILANT®). Follow all label instructions and never exceed label rates.

How soon after cutting the stem do I need to apply VIGILANT®?

VIGILANT® should be applied immediately to the cut stem - certainly no longer than 10 minutes after you've made the initial cut. If treating old stumps, recut and then apply VIGILANT®.

Can I use VIGILANT® when it is raining?

VIGILANT® is not totally rainfast, so application during wet weather is not recommended. For best results, apply VIGILANT® in fine weather when no rain has been forecast for a minimum of 12 hours after use. Likewise, don't irrigate for at least 12 hours after using VIGILANT®.

Application during rain or if it rains after application and before the gel is uptaken by the plant, there is the possibility that the rain will wash the herbicide into the soil. If this happens adjacent sensitive or desirable plants may be affected through their roots system absorbing the herbicide.

Is VIGILANT® safe to use around my child/ dog/ cat/ birds?

Picloram, the active ingredient in the gel has a low toxicity, even more so in VIGILANT® as it is a diluted 5% picloram in gel formulation. Casual contact with VIGILANT® by a child or animal is unlikely to cause injury, although some individuals may be more sensitive to chemicals than others, so all care must be taken.

Normal safety precautions must be followed and the bottle must be kept out of reach of children. Because VIGILANT® is applied directly to the plant pest, there is no problem with spray drift. For more information refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet.

Does VIGILANT® cause soil residues?

As VIGILANT® is applied directly to the cut stem, soil contamination is very low. Tests have shown nil or virtually no detectable residue levels remain in the soil following use. Once again, we stress that VIGILANT® must be applied according to the label directions. If VIGILANT® is accidentally spilt onto the soil, then soil or off-target effects may occur.

How long will it take for the treated plant to die?

The treated plants usually show visible signs of dying within 2 months following the application of VIGILANT®.

How often do I replace the brush on the brush bottle?

The brush should last for approximately 6 - 8 refills of the 240 gram bottle. If the brush is wearing out sooner, then you may be using the brush incorrectly. It is designed to direct the gel onto the stem - don't brush it around like a paint brush. And no, sorry, we can't supply extra brushes separately.

Links to related websites

Trials with VIGILANT® were undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Conservation: <http://www.doc.govt.nz>

For information on weed species targeted by regional councils in New Zealand: <http://www.oultwood.com/localgov/newzealand.htm>

For further information about New Zealand weed species: <http://envbop.govt.nz/green/weeds.htm>

For other issues of interest to small block owners: <http://www.lifestyleblock.co.nz>

For conservation issues: <http://www.forest-bird.org.nz>