



Department of  
Primary Industries



GRAHAM  
CENTRE  
for Agricultural Innovation



## Silverleaf Nightshade Weed

NSW Primary Industries and Murrumbidgee Landcare have a new collaborative project funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) which will target the perennial summer weed Silverleaf Nightshade (SLN) across the five states of Q'ld, NSW, Victoria, SA and WA.

Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) is an introduced perennial weed that can dominate pastures and cropping areas. It can reduce crop yields by as much as 20- 40% by taking moisture and nutrients over summer and autumn that could be used by following crops. In pasture paddocks it can reduce growth of productive species and render areas useless for livestock grazing. It reproduces from both seed and root fragments so can be difficult to control by conventional means. Many common farm activities such as livestock movement and cultivation will spread this weed. Research has shown that up to 90% of seeds remain viable after passing through the gut of sheep, so it is easily spread by grazing animals.

Current research has shown that the best control methods involve targeting the weed with a dual action firstly to prevent the seed set in summer and then to run down the root reserves with a follow up control in autumn. Combined with competitive crops and pasture over several years has given successful control of the weed.

Phil Bowden from Murrumbidgee Landcare will present workshops to raise awareness of the problem and show best practices to control this weed.

**A local workshop will be held on**

**Tuesday 2 September 2014**

**Commencing at 9am**

**Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conference Room  
Research Station Rd, Hanwood**

**Program:**

**8-30am** Tea/Coffee

**9-00am**

- Current research
- Best management practice discussion
- MLA project and requirements for demonstration trial sites

**11-00am** Tea/Coffee break

**11-30am** Site visits to inspect SLN problem areas close by (MI access tracks & cropping/pasture infestations)



**For further information please contact Phil Bowden on M:0427201946 or  
Cathy Semmler at Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 69620200.**