

Rabbit control needs to be planned to consider the following:

RABBITS WILL MOVE BETWEEN PROPERTIES, SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO ACT IN UNISON AND SWAP IDEAS WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS.

Monitor your property – work out where rabbits are living and feeding so you can target your program

Set goals with your neighbours and determine what resources you have, use the Rabbit Control Wheel to prepare a plan of action at the most effective time, set some short term goals ideally for a 12-month program.

Use a combination of methods as control is most effective if different measures are used together. Harbour removal and warren closure are particularly important.

Monitor to judge how effective your program is and update your plan accordingly.

For further information contact: Department of Environment and Conservation

Central Wheatbelt District

33 Bates St, Merredin WA 6415 **phone 08 9041 2488**

375 Fitzgerald St, Northam 6401 **phone 08 9622 8940**

Great Southern District

7 Wald St, Narrogin WA 6312 **phone 08 9881 9200**

www.dec.wa.gov.au



Department of
Environment and Conservation



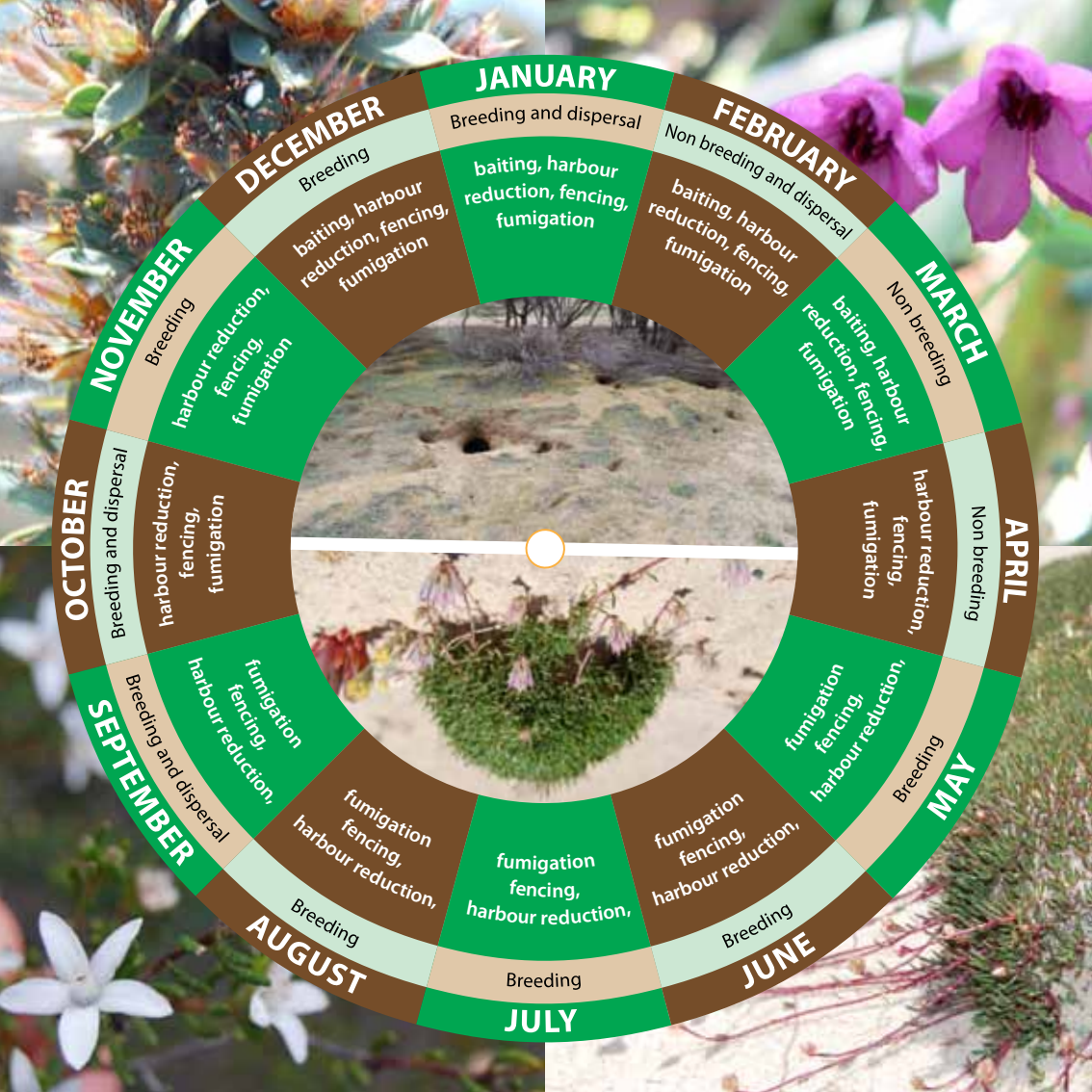
CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Rabbit Control Calendar Wheel

An easy guide to how to protect your property and minimise the damage from the European rabbit in the Wheatbelt of WA.



Effective rabbit control requires a variety of measures
THERE IS NO QUICK FIX SOLUTION.



JANUARY

Breeding and dispersal

baiting, harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

FEBRUARY

Non breeding and dispersal

baiting, harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

MARCH

Non breeding

baiting, harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

APRIL

Non breeding

harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

MAY

Breeding

fumigation, fencing, harbour reduction

JUNE

Breeding

fumigation, fencing, harbour reduction

JULY

Breeding

fumigation, fencing, harbour reduction

AUGUST

Breeding

fumigation, fencing, harbour reduction

SEPTEMBER

Breeding and dispersal

harbour reduction, fumigation, fencing

OCTOBER

Breeding and dispersal

harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

NOVEMBER

Breeding

harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

DECEMBER

Breeding

baiting, harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation

JANUARY

Breeding and dispersal

Month
Life cycle stage
Appropriate control activities

baiting, harbour reduction, fencing, fumigation



Methods to control rabbits

Harbour reduction

Harbour reduction involves removing shelter, such as weedy patches and rubbish piles. It can be undertaken all year round but is most effective after breeding when rabbits are young and dispersing.

"Harbour reduction can result in the death of more than half of rabbits under one year old." (Department of Primary Industries)

Collapsing a warren:

1. Identify all entrances.
2. Dig from the entrance and follow the tunnel and collapse until the end if possible.
3. Compact well.
4. Repeat with other entrances.
5. Monitor for reopening and collapse again if necessary.
6. Large warrens in open paddocks can be deep ripped by machine to at least 600 millimetres.

Note: When removing harbour be aware of any native fauna that may also be using it as habitat. Native vegetation removal will require DEC approval particularly in environmental and culturally sensitive areas.

Fumigation:

Fumigation is a good option in sensitive areas where there is a risk of non target species poisoning. It is most effective during the breeding season and a good follow-up method to use three to four weeks after a baiting program.

You need an up-to-date chemical handling certificate and suitable personal protective equipment to use fumigants. If you don't have one you can hire a contractor.

Successful fumigation:

1. Identify all entrances.
2. Run a dog, or walk the over the area to ensure any ground living rabbits are driven into burrows.
3. Treat each entrance and seal securely, ensuring it is air tight.
4. Follow up three to four days later and repeat the procedure on any holes that have reopened.

Fencing

Fencing can help you can become rabbit free but regular maintenance is essential. Rabbit-proof fencing will also prevent movement of small animals and consideration should be given in wildlife habitat areas. A plan for removal of rabbits within the fenced area will also need to be executed.

Installing a fence:

Use netting at least 900 millimetres high with holes no larger than four centimetres.

Run a 30 to 60 centimetre skirt along the ground and peg at regular intervals.

Baiting

Baiting can achieve a quick reduction in numbers but needs to be followed up with other removal methods. The use of Pindone needs to be carefully applied as non target native animals can also be poisoned.

You need an up-to-date 1080 handling certificate to purchase and lay 1080 poisoned oats.

Tips for baiting:

- Identify where rabbits are living and feeding.
- If using 1080 one shot oats there is no need to free feed as it is already factored in. All others are more effective after a free feed period.
- Baiting is most effective if there is no other feed around.
- Protect pets, birds and other natives by removing carcasses. Foxes and dogs in particular are at risk from secondary poisoning from eating poisoned rabbits.
- Cover up any uneaten bait after the program has finished.
- Always follow product labelling especially in regard to accurate dosage rates.
- The most time and cost effective method of using baits in large areas is with a bait layer to lay a furrow of 1080 one shot oats.
- A 10-day rain-free period post-baiting is optimal.