10-2024

Rabbit control: 1080 versus pindone

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia

Rabbit control: 1080 versus pindone

DPIRD-149

There are two toxins available for controlling pest rabbits in Western Australia: 1080 and pindone. This factsheet provides a brief summary of the main characteristics of both vertebrate pesticides. 1080 is generally the preferred toxin for rabbit control in Western Australia (WA).

Image 1: Rabbit grazing pasture

1080 should be the preferred toxin, where possible. 1080 is a highly effective, safe, and target specific control technique, provided the directions for use are followed.

Management strategy

Any attempt to reduce the impact of rabbits on the productivity of any agricultural enterprise (for example, pasture, crops, tree farms, horticulture) should be undertaken as part of a pest management plan.

This strategy should be proactive rather than reactive to a problem. It should also include a long-term strategy for dealing with potential rabbit damage, including the removal of any rabbit harbourage, where possible. However, the approach used may need to vary according to each situation. 1080 and pindone products must be used according to their labels and relevant legislation.

Properties, advantages and disadvantages

Table 1: Properties, advantages, and disadvantages of 1080 compared with pindone

1080	Pindone
S7 Poison: Baiting application, risk assessment, and authorisation voucher procedure required.	S6 Poison: can be purchased 'off the shelf'.
Acute poison, toxic to target species at low concentrations.	Chronic poison, needs multiple feeds.
Natural plant product. These plants occur naturally in WA, although the synthetic product is made for pest control.	Synthetic product.
Due to safety concerns, cannot be used in built-up/urban areas.	Can be used in built-up/urban areas.
Poison and pre-feed laid in the same trail.	Requires pre-feeding for around 3 nights prior to poison-baiting. Note: Do not dilute the product as per some 1080 products.
Water soluble so cannot be used in wet conditions.	The available form is water soluble so cannot be used in wet conditions.
Highly target specific.	Less selective in action. Known to cause the death of kangaroos and bandicoots, and is toxic to several birds, such as parrots, and eagles, and domestic animals, such as sheep, horses, and cattle.
No effective antidote.	Known antidote (vitamin K).
Need to prevent domestic animal access, including potential secondary poisoning hazard.	Need to prevent domestic animal access. Limited potential for secondary poisoning. However, known to be very toxic to many native animals.
Short-half life in most animals.	Medium half-life in animals
No cumulative effects.	Repeated small doses can be more lethal than a single dose. Can persist for several weeks.
Readily degraded by soil bacteria and fungi and does not persist in the environment.	Unknown, but second-generation anticoagulants are known to persist in the environment.

1080	Pindone
Can affect animal fertility but reversible.	Can affect animal fertility which is generally non-reversible.
Relatively rapid knockdown.	May require a longer period to achieve the desired result than 1080, so damage is likely to occur over this period.

Conclusion

Pindone is a useful adjunct for controlling vertebrate pests, particularly rabbit populations in areas where 1080 cannot be used, but only where the associated potential risks to non-target species can be adequately managed. 1080 should be the preferred toxin where possible, as it is a highly effective, safe, and target specific control technique, provided the directions for use are followed.

More information

Refer to the department website at dpird.wa.gov.au for more information on the following:

- Rabbits
- Rabbit control options
- Registered pesticide permits

Contact us

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Last updated October 2024

dpird.wa.gov.au