

FORMULA



Frequently asked questions

Q. Is there any “collateral damage” to non-target plant species?

A. Some dieback of grasses and forbs may occur around the dead tree stump, as may occur through the use of any herbicide. However, these effects are short-lived (less than three months), as the grasses will rapidly grow back over the spring/summer. Perhaps a greater “adverse effect” occurs after the pine tree dies and sheds its needles. Pine trees have a naturally-occurring herbicide in their needles, and when these are shed, the grasses beneath the pine tree are damaged. However, this effect would occur whether the tree was cut or poisoned, and is minimal when compared to the adverse effect of allowing the pine tree to mature.

Q. Can I use Formula 4 in the rain?

A. No. F4 is a root-absorbed herbicide, so it must be absorbed into the soil to have maximum effect. If there is any chance that F4 could be captured in surface runoff, or otherwise diluted, it is unlikely to be effective. For this reason, F4 is not recommended for use in swampy ground. It is best to wait twelve hours after it has stopped raining before using F4.

Q. How long will Formula 4 remain active as a liquid after I have mixed it from the powder?

A. F4 will remain fully active for three months after it is mixed; if kept in a sealed, clean, plastic container; and stored a dark, cool, dry storeroom. **Please remember to store this herbicide in a secure place out of reach of children.** When reapplying at a later date, the mixture should always be shaken well before use.

Q. Are the pine tree seeds still viable after dosing with Formula 4?

A. It is desirable for the seeds to die along with the tree, to prevent re-infestation. This effect is currently being studied by Wilding Pine Control Ltd. Preliminary observations suggest that seed survival and seedling strike is considerably less after dosing with F4, than if the trees were cut down.

Q. Can I use Formula 4 to eradicate a dense pine forest?

A. F4 has been developed to control scattered pine trees. F4 is not recommended for use in controlling dense, continuous thickets of wilding pines, because the limit per hectare (12 kg or 120 litres) would be used up very quickly in treating such a forest. However, small isolated stands of pine trees can be effectively treated with F4.

Q. Does Formula 4 kill pine trees larger than 10 cm dbh?

A. F4 will kill pine trees larger than 10 cm diameter at breast-height (dbh). However, the dosage will need to be increased in proportion to the total biomass of the tree. In addition, effects may take longer to appear (12-18 months in some cases), as the herbicide takes longer to be translocated to the foliage from the roots. The product guarantee does not apply to the use of F4 on trees with a main-stem trunk dbh exceeding 10 centimetres.

Q. Are there approved contractors who can apply Formula 4 on wilding pines?

A. Yes. Please feel free to contact us for the names and contact details of approved ground and aerial spray contractors in your area, who can professionally apply F4 to control wilding pines on your property.

Q. Can Formula 4 be used to kill trees other than pine trees?

A. Yes. However, there is little information on effective dosage rates, and therefore no product guarantee is provided for this. Trials are currently being undertaken on the use of F4 on trees such as Silver Birch, Alder, Rowan, Sycamore and *Cotoneaster*, all of which may cause wilding problems on agricultural and conservation lands. Further information will be posted on this website as it comes to hand.

Q. What is the best method for applying F4 to pine trees?

A. A range of application methods are available, depending on the level of infestation, remoteness and type of country you are in. Full details are available on this website under [application methods](#).

Q. Will Formula 4 kill coppiced trees (i.e. those that have re-sprouted from their stump after being cut)?

A. Yes. F4 is ideal for destroying coppiced pine trees. A photo of a coppiced tree treated with F4 is provided below.

