

**Scientists have discovered a molecule in smoke that makes plants germinate. This could have very good prospects for agriculture and native bush regeneration.**

It is a brand new chemical that has been patented and has serious applications in dormancy and germination ecology. It only takes a minute amount (parts per million) to stimulate crops and vegetables to germinate. You simply dissolve a small amount in water, soak the seeds overnight and sow or broadcast the seeds. It helps native plants germinate quickly.

Studies have also been done on African plants successfully so it has world-wide applications, especially in agriculture but also in home gardens which may have hard to germinate species of native plants, such as Kangaroo's Paw.

It has taken 11 years of research to patent the chemical and scientists have received funding for a 5 year intensive research program to commercialise it in 3-5 years and then sell it overseas.

There are no apparent risks however plants will germinate but not necessary yield, so the success in agriculture is yet to be determined, through intensive research.

*Source: Dr Kingsley Dixon -Perth*