

Various Brush-control Herbicides Require Different Application Methods

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Autumn olive, multiflora rose, crab apple, black cherry, black locust, and other brush plants can be difficult to control in croplands and pasture. New herbicides on the market, including Remedy, will control these plants. For foliar applications, late spring and early summer applications of this and other growth-regulator-type herbicides, including 2,4-D, dicamba (Banvel), Crossbow, and Pathfinder, are considered optimum.

However, if you are using glyphosate, application in the fall rather than spring or summer provides better control of most perennial weeds. Glyphosate, the active ingredient of the commonly used herbicide Roundup, is now formulated and sold under different trade names. While surfactants in the system may cause differences in activity and "rain-fastness" of individual formulations, check labels to determine the amount of active ingredient in a formulation (usually indicated by pounds acid equivalent or a.e. per gallon) to make cost comparisons.

Foliar applications are not the only, and not always the best, way to apply herbicides. Just as there are several herbicide choices, there are seven application methods. To decide which is best, you'll need to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each.

APPLICATION METHODS

Basal Bark (Or Stem) Treatment - Generally used for stems less than 6 inches in diameter. Apply with a backpack sprayer using low pressure. Spray the basal parts of the brush or trunks to a height of 12 to 18 inches from the ground in a manner that thoroughly wets the lower stem, including the root collar area. This treatment is less effective on trees larger than

6 to 8 inches in diameter. The big advantage is you can apply the herbicide anytime, including winter months, except when snow or water prevent spraying to the ground line. It is generally a safer application for the applicator since less total spray volume is applied and you do not have to spray to tops of tall brush. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Banvel, Crossbow, Pathfinder II, Remedy

Broadcast Soil Application - A herbicide in pellet form is spread on the soil in the root zone of the target plant. Will kill or adversely affect any woody plants that have roots in the application area. There is also potential for downslope movement and killing nontarget plants. Herbicide: Spike 20P

Cut Stump or Crown Treatment - Herbicide should be applied to the fresh cut stump or stems within a few hours of cutting. Usually done with a backpack sprayer at low pressure, but other application methods are used. Spray the sides and outer portion of the cut stump. Most important is the cambium layer just under the bark. Apply anytime, except when snow or water prevents spraying to the ground line. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Banvel, Crossbow, Pathfinder II, Remedy

Dormant Stem Treatment - This application is usually made with backpack or other spraying equipment at low pressure. Treat whenever brush is dormant and the bark is dry. Spray upper and lower stems including root collar. Do not apply when snow or water prevents spraying to the ground line. Late winter or early spring is usually best. Herbicides: Crossbow, Remedy

Foliar Application - A wide range of spray equipment, from large machine mounted to hand held, can be used. Wet leaves on entire plant to the point of dripping. Some herbicides will work better with added surfactant. Avoid

forming a spray mist, which is susceptible to drift. Herbicides: 2,4-D, Ally XP, Banvel, Cimarron, Crossbow, Grazon P+D, Remedy, Roundup Ultra

Spot Concentrate Treatment - This application involves applying concentrated herbicide to the soil surface at the plant's base. Some herbicides require precise delivery. Herbicides: Banvel, Cimarron

Thinline Basal Application - Apply a horizontal thin line of undiluted herbicide around the stem, completely ringing it with herbicide. Herbicide is usually applied near the base, but may vary depending on herbicide and stem size. May need a metered or calibrated applicator to deliver the small amounts required. Herbicides: Crossbow, Remedy

This information is intended only to provide some general guidelines for use in making decisions about brush control and does not

replace the herbicide label. Read the label carefully for precautions, personal protective equipment required, exact application instructions, and grazing or haying restrictions. These products are labeled for cropland or pasture. Many more products are available for brush control in noncrop or nonpasture areas. The WVU Extension Service implies no endorsement of the products mentioned. Of the herbicides listed, only Grazon P+D is restricted-use, meaning a person must have a pesticide applicator's license to purchase and apply it. All others are general-use herbicides.

You should consult the label or your county's WVU Extension agent to be sure you are buying the right product for the plant you want to control. Chemical control should be only one part of a total control plan that includes some other management practices. No one chemical, by itself, can solve the problem.

Trade or brand names used in this publication are for educational purposes only. The use of such product names does not imply endorsement by the WVU Extension Service to the exclusion of other products that may be equally suitable.

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