

Basal bark and cut-stump herbicide applications for control of woody plants on rangeland

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Late summer and fall can be an excellent time to treat unwanted stands of woody plants. Scattered stands of individual trees should either be treated individually using the basal bark method (for labeled plants less than 4-6 inches in diameter) or the cut stump treatment method. The basal bark treatments will not be effective if the plants cannot be treated down to the soil line. Producers can treat smaller diameter susceptible woody plants individually this fall by spraying the basal stem parts with triclopyr plus diesel fuel. The lower 12-15 inches of the stems or trunks of susceptible small trees should be thoroughly wetted on all sides with a triclopyr-diesel mixture. Triclopyr goes by the tradenames Remedy Ultra and Pathfinder II. Pathfinder II is a ready to- use product and does not have to be mixed with diesel. PastureGard HL is a premix of triclopyr and fluroxypyr, and can be applied as a basal bark or cut-stump treatment. Crossbow, a mixture of triclopyr and 2,4-D, can also provide control of certain woody plants. Milestone, with the active ingredient aminopyralid, is effective on black and common honeylocust. Mix Milestone with a compatible basal oil. Always follow label directions for effective treatments.

If the woody plant is greater than 6 inches in diameter, the better method is to cut it off at ground level and treat the cut surface of the susceptible tree with triclopyr and diesel fuel within 30-60 minutes, before the sap seals over the exposed area. Spray the cambium and light-colored sapwood to insure translocation of the herbicide. Treat any exposed trunk or exposed roots.

The stump of ash, cottonwood, elm, oaks, persimmon, and Russian olive can be treated with a 1:1 ratio of dicamba (Banvel, Clarity) in water instead of triclopyr if desired. The stumps of Eastern red cedar do not need to be treated. Simply cutting Eastern red cedar below the lowest green branch will kill it. Common trees in Kansas that resprout after cutting include ash, cottonwood, elm, oaks, osage orange (hedge), persimmon, black and common honey locust, saltcedar, and Russian olive. In sprouting species, new shoots arise from dormant buds at or below the ground often resulting in a multi-stemmed clump.

Common honeylocust can resprout from a wide diameter area around the main plant because of root suckers. Cut-stump applications of Milestone as a 10% solution in water has been effective on common honeylocust.

Tordon RTU and Pathway can be used on cut surfaces in noncropland areas such as fence rows, roadsides, and rights-of-way. However, Tordon RTU, and Pathway are not labeled for use on range and pasture.

Check labels for restrictions for use prior to hay harvesting, removal of animals before slaughter, and for use around lactating dairy animals.

Application tips for using cut-stump treatments:

- Always follow directions on the herbicide label.
- Before spraying, brush any sawdust or debris off cut surface.
- Apply herbicide to freshly cut stump.
- Spray cut surface and stump to ground level.
- Spray exposed roots above soil surface.
- The cambium layer is the critical area to spray.
- Apply enough liquid that it pools on cut surface.

Trade names are used to help identify herbicides. No endorsement is intended, nor is any criticism implied of similar products not mentioned