Fall Weed Treatment

Don’t let a few frosty nights have you rushing to winterize your sprayers! Late summer and fall are great times to treat certain perennial weed species. As perennial plants are busy making and storing sugars in their roots for the upcoming winter, efficacy of herbicide applications may improve.

A few to consider are Canada thistle and Russian knapweed. Both species are aggressive, creeping perennial weeds that infest pastures, rangeland, roadsides, crops, and non-crop areas. While these species do produce seeds, most of the plants energy is utilized in producing new roots and shoots along the root system (rhizomes). Mechanical injury of plant parts via hoeing and mowing will stimulate new growth.

Recommended products-Brazen®, Chaparral®, or Milestone®. Read entire label for important information regarding using products/by products of treated forage and/or mulch.

Another troublesome noxious weed that responds well to late summer/early fall treatment is Field bindweed. A perennial that spreads from both seeds and extensive underground horizontal stems. Field bindweed plants can spread radially more than 10 feet in a growing season and roots can reach 14 feet deep. Seeds of this species can remain viable for 60 years or more!

Effective control involves eliminating seed production, reducing carbohydrate production, and constant monitoring. Hoeing or cultivating every 2-3 weeks can control seedlings. Weed barriers and mulch will work only if there is absolutely NO light available. It can take 3 years or more of light suppression to kill bindweed (UC IPM). Herbicide use at this time of the year may produce greater results as plants will have a greater amount of surface area allowing more of the product to be moved into the plants roots during photosynthesis.

PCWP now carries Quinclorac that is very effective on F. bindweed but may only be used in turf. Products with the active ingredient Banvel® can suppress top growth. Glyphosate type products are moderately effective and can be used in gardens if desirable species are protected. Pre-emergents such as Preen ® only prevent new plants from germinating.

Then there’s Quackgrass! A perennial weedy grass growing (usually) in a perennial desirable grass-TURF!

Many landowners mistake Quackgrass for Crabgrass. (Crabgrass is an annual nuisance weed.) Quackgrass spreads by seeds (few) and creeping rhizomes (many). One plant can produce 300 feet of rhizomes each year!
Mechanical removal may spread the roots of Quackgrass further. Weed barriers suppress growth but the shoots will creep along until they find a way out! Tillage in areas infested with Quackgrass can spread thousands of new plants via those rhizomes. Chemical control with products containing the active ingredient glyphosate (Roundup®) may be used but applications may require use of paintbrush or wipers. Several applications may be required. Garden areas may be treated after harvest. Treat in the fall and in the spring once remaining plants have broken thorough the soil surface. Allow for the most available surface area for best results. Ortho-Grass-B-Gone® can also be used successfully with the same application methods. Agriculture specific options are also available.

As with any pesticides, many factors need to be considered including the site of application. Contact Weed and Pest for specific recommendations. Always read and follow all herbicide label directions. They are requirements, not recommendations!

An integrated weed management (IPM) plan that utilizes many options for control will work best in controlling these and other weed species. Check out our website for more info on IPM.

**BOLO!!!**

Perennial Baby’s breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)

**GOT WEEDS? WE CAN HELP!**

Powell 307-754-4521 or Cody 307-527-8885