

the **T H I S T L E**

Park County Weed and Pest Control District

May 2016

Timing is everything!

At least it can be the difference between success and failure in managing weeds and is just as important as selecting the proper herbicide. Herbicides are chemicals that cause injury to plants, and can be a very useful tool to land owners in achieving management goals on their property, but need not be your first line of defense when dealing with weeds-either noxious or nuisance! The most successful management plans utilize a combination of all the tools available including cultural, mechanical, biological, and of course prevention. This includes maintaining desirable species that are already present or planting those species if necessary. Herbicide use is an important component of any weed management plan. Applying herbicides at the correct time is crucial for effective control.

Since the chemical regulation of plant growth is complex, this guide is merely to demonstrate some of the vegetation management options available to land owners; and is not intended to be a definitive guide to herbicide use. Herbicide choice is dependent on many variables including but not limited to species, reproductive methods, existing vegetation, and location to name just a few. Buying the least expensive or most expensive product will not necessarily ensure good control. And applying these products above the recommended rates are not only ineffective, but also against the label requirements and the law! The vast array of products that are available can be overwhelming!

Common Herbicides

The following are some common general use residential and pasture or rangeland herbicides that are available from PCWP. There is no license required to buy or apply these products. The following are *general* recommendations. Your situation may be unique and have specific elements that require other methods. Hard to kill weeds (complex perennials that spread via a creeping root and seeds) require specific products applied at specific times! **Always read the label** to ensure you are using the product in a manner consistent with that labelling. **Label instructions are requirements-not recommendations!** Consult your Weed and Pest District or other qualified entity for more information on proper selection of herbicides - especially if “noxious” weeds are present.

Sterilants-Bare ground control. These types of products typically produce a bare ground effect. Developed for industrial use around railroads, guard rails, storage areas, storage tanks, or other areas where no vegetation is desired. Many products are available and may provide from 1-3 years of control.



These products are not intended for residential use as they have lateral movement that increases the potential to harm desired plants including trees, shrubs, turf, etc. Increased amounts of moisture either natural or human caused increases the chance for off target damage. Must be moved into the soil via precipitation or manual watering.

- **Krovar, Diuron/Bromacil, Mohave, Sahara**, etc. various active ingredients. Use with extreme caution. *For most residential uses, a pre-emergent may eliminate potential off target damage.*

Pre-emergent Herbicides

(applied before weeds emerge). For pre-emergence control of grass/ broadleaf weeds. Length of control rate dependent. Prevents germinating seeds from developing a root system. Very effective on annual weeds such as mustards (w), kochia, cheat grass (w), Russian thistle, lambs quarter, prostrate spurge, etc. May need to re-apply in spring. Must be moved into the soil via precipitation or manual watering. (w)-winter annuals, apply late summer or fall before germination occurs as the majority of plants will germinate and winter over, however, there will be some germination throughout the summer season as well. Not effective on perennial weeds already established.

- Can be used in: perennial flower beds, gardens (after ALL desirable species are established) and around driveways.
- Lawns, and sod nurseries, container, field-grown, and landscape ornamentals, roadways, roadsides, railways, and equipment yards, parking areas, fence rows (ungrazed)
- **Preen®** active ingredient Trifluralin.
- **Barricade or Quali-Pro Proflam®** active ingredient Proflam

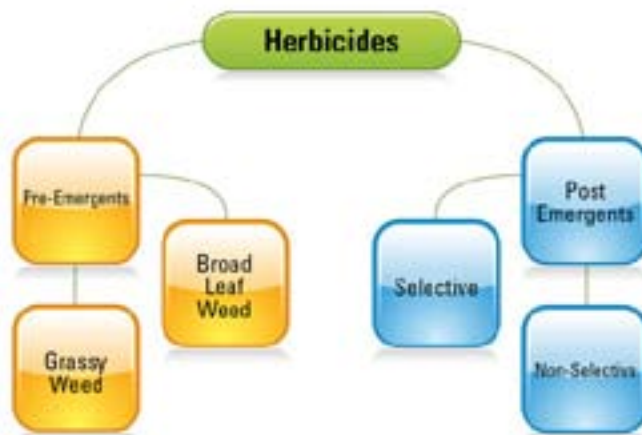
Post Emergent Herbicides (applied after weeds have emerged). Products are non-selective or selective (broadleaf or grasses). Depending on products, may be used in turf, pastures, fence rows, etc. **READ the LABEL!**

Non-Selective-Kills everything green, growing, and it touches.

- **Roundup® or generic (Makaze)** -Active ingredient

glyphosate. Slow acting herbicide!

- Effective on most broadleaf and grass plants.
- No residual- only kills what is green, growing AND it touches!
- Not effective on Kochia!



- Timing of application important in eliminating noxious or tough perennial weeds. Canada thistle, brome, quack grass, bindweed-late summer or fall.
- Safe in flower beds, gardens, around trees - as long as the herbicide doesn't contact non-target species!
- One of the most non-toxic herbicides available. Target a specific enzyme found ONLY in plants.

Selective Herbicide-Broad leaves. Broadleaf weeds and forbs can be easily controlled by a number of selective herbicides. The Weed & Pest can help to identify weeds as noxious or not and can make chemical recommendations specific to your property and goals. Cost-sharing may be available for some noxious weed problems. Always Read the Label!

- **2,4-D Amine (Platoon)** - Usually effective on many annual broadleaf plants- if treated when plants are young. This is a *fast* acting herbicide so is NOT effective on complex perennials (creeping root) such as Canada thistle as it only removes the above ground structures.
- Safe in turf, around trees.
- May be used most any place that you would use Roundup type products.
- Also effective on most biennials when treated in rosette stage - Musk thistle, Houndstongue, Burdock, etc.
- **Weedmaster®**- active ingredients 2,4-D and dicamba. Effective on many annual weeds and SOME perennial species only with repeated

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

applications (Showy milkweed, Field bindweed). Safe on turf. **Caution** near trees.

- **E-2** active ingredients 2,4-D, dicamba, fluroxypur. Effective on hard to kill kochia and other annual weeds.
- **Trimec® with crabgrass control**-active ingredient 2,4-D, dicamba, and quinclorac.
- Safe for residential turf. Effective on many annual weeds and a few perennials including field bindweed. Not for pastures as this product has an extended grazing restriction!
- **Quinclorac SPC** - Active ingredient quinclorac. Safe for established ornamental and residential turf grasses. Controls many grassy weeds and some broadleaf weeds such (generic Redeem®)as field bindweed.
- **Confront or Quali-Pro 2-D-** active ingredient triclopyr and clopyralid. Useful on Canada thistle, Russian knapweed. Apply early summer to bolting or fall.
- May be used in turf (not residential use).
- **Milestone®, Chaparral®, Telar®, Escort®**-various active ingredients. Specialty herbicides developed for control of many noxious weeds. Safe for pastures. Not for residential turf.
- **Milestone-Canada thistle, knapweeds**-apply after plants have produced plenty of surface area thru bolting. Fall applications after a frost.
- **Chaparral-Canada thistle, whitetop.** For Canada thistle apply after plants have produced plenty of surface area thru bolting. Fall applications after a frost. For whitetop-bolting thru full flower.
- **Telar-whitetop, Dalmatian toadflax.** For whitetop-bolting thru full flower. Toadflax apply after plenty of surface area before flowering.
- **Escort-whitetop.** Apply during bolting thru full flower.

Selective Herbicide-Grasses. Controls most grasses both annual and perennial. Safe around most trees, shrubs, ornamentals, etc. when used as directed! Read Label.

- **Grass be Gone®** active ingredient fluazifop. May require more than one application for perennial grasses. Apply when grass is actively growing. Some perennial species may require greater surface area of late summer/fall.

So what should I be doing now?

In some parts of the County **whitetop** will begin heading out! If so, from now thru full flower is the best time to apply herbicide. Preferably something super effective such as Escort or Telar or products with the same active ingredients. PCWP does carry these herbicides at a cost shared discount! Be sure to take advantage of this while it is available.



As temps begin to warm, annual weeds such as tumble/tansy mustard and cheatgrass, are growing rapidly. If mechanical methods such as pulling, hoeing, etc. are not feasible, there are many herbicides available. Remember to treat annual weed species before they become mature. 3-4 inches tall is a good rule of thumb.

Dalmatian toadflax has been growing since early this year. This particular species will dominate the landscape if left on it's own devices. Take whatever steps necessary to control this noxious species. If using herbicides, PCWP has cost shared several products for use. Contact our office ASAP to obtain necessary amounts.



We have equipment rentals !

The difference between a dream and reality is having a plan! Vegetation management plans should always start with well defined goals, followed by selecting a strategy to meet those goals, then implementation of the strategy, followed by assessment, and finally follow up. Our staff can assist you in developing these plans. Contact PCWP for an on-site assessment. 307-754-4521 or 307-527-8885