



CHEMICAL CONTROL OF BRUSH AND SHRUBS

- Woody Plants
 - Mixed Brush and Trees
 - Buckbrush
 - Sagebrush
 - Poison Ivy
 - Brush in Ditches

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NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF BRUSH AND SHRUBS

Control of Woody Plants in Pastures

Mowing, once each season, for two or three seasons is an effective control measure for small brush and for many weeds in pastures. Mowing combined with 2,4-D applications, may be more effective.

The usual reason for weeds and brush getting started in a pasture is overgrazing. Unless you practice good pasture management after control practices are carried out, weeds and brush can be expected to return.

2,4-D and 2,4,5-T will control many of the brush and tree species found growing in pastures or on land suitable for pasture. Ammate is effective for spraying patches of mixed brush.

However, the use of these chemicals should be accompanied by the management program which will favor prompt recovery of the desirable grasses and native legumes and, thus, reduce sprout growth.

Foliage Spray of Mixed Brush or Trees

Foliage sprays of 2,4-D will be more effective than 2,4,5-T on some species and 2,4,5-T will kill some not killed by 2,4-D. However, for most brush and tree species found in North Dakota, 2,4-D will be just as effective as 2,4,5-T. Generally, the 2,4-D ester formulation is recommended. When spraying near susceptible crops use the low drift formulation and avoid direct contact, or drift onto susceptible crops or plantings.

To prepare a foliage spray for mixed brush or trees mix 3 pounds of 2,4-D ester in 100 gallons of water. Spray so as to thoroughly wet the surface of brush, trees or weeds being treated. The best time to apply foliage sprays on most woody plants is at the fully leafed-out stage and during the following 3 to 4 weeks when growth is active.

For late season applications when growth is less active, 3 pounds of 2,4-D ester mixed in 10 gallons of diesel oil and emulsified in 90 gallons of water will usually be more effective.

Ammate (95 percent ammonium sulfamate) is effective for controlling mixed brush and is well adapted to patch treatment. Mix at the rate of 3/4 pound of ammate in 1 gallon of water. Add a spreader-sticker to the solution, and spray to wet the foliage.

Buckbrush and Sagebrush

Buckbrush and sagebrush can generally be controlled by repeated applications of 2 pounds of 2,4-D ester mixed in 100 gallons of water. Spray sufficiently to wet the foliage. Apply in the spring when the buckbrush is fully leafed-out and is growing rapidly. Spray sagebrush in May or early June when plants have 6 to 8 inches of new growth. For large areas apply 1 to 2 pounds of 2,4-D ester per acre in 10 to 20 gallons of water.

A 2,4-D treatment each year for 2 or 3 years will usually thin out buckbrush and sagebrush stands and will stimulate grass competition. Effectiveness will vary somewhat with different species, variety and location.

Poison Ivy

Apply 2,4,5-T ester, or a combination of 2,4-D esters, to poison ivy at the rate of 2 pounds in 100 gallons of water and spray to wet the foliage. Ammate mixed at the rate of 3/4 pound to 1 gallon of water and sprayed on the poison ivy, sufficient to wet the foliage, is also effective.

Control of Brush or Trees in Ditches

The same recommendations as suggested for mixed brush or trees in pastures will apply for such control along ditches or roadsides.

For willows and most other troublesome trees or brush along ditches, apply 3 pounds of 2,4-D ester in 100 gallons of water, or ammate at 3/4 pound in 1 gallon of water, sprayed on the trees so as to wet the foliage.

Best results will be obtained when applications are made in the late spring or early summer when growth is rapid.

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