

Herbicide Time is Approaching

BRUCE ALBER, CF

Weed-A-Metre® spot treatments

This tool is made in New Zealand and is excellent for treating grasses and forbs east of the Cascade crest. It has a bottle that holds Pronone 25G®, a dry granular herbicide, a trigger mechanism, and a big cone that distributes the granules in a circle around your seedling. This is an excellent way to control the weeds around your trees for the first few years of life!

Mix: No mixing required, just fill up the bottle with Pronone 25G, use the green trigger on the Weed-A-Metre.

Method: In the fall before the snows or late winter and early spring, hold the cone high over the seedling and pull the green trigger once. The grains will fall all around the tree and the moisture will activate the herbicide into the soil to kill the grasses and weeds. It should remain weed free for over 1 year on the East Side of the Cascade Mountains. Pronone is safest over Ponderosa Pine, do not use on first year Douglas-fir plugs, and never use over Western Larch.

Spot Liquid Herbicide Sprays: Meter-Jet®

This tool is attached to the hose of your backpack sprayer and is a trigger with an adjustable liquid reservoir, a long wand and special solid cone nozzle. Care must be taken to calibrate the amount of liquid sprayed per trigger pull...we recommend about 12 milliliters per pull.

Mix: Most herbicides can be used with this tool, such as Oust, Velpar®, Westar®, and Atrazine. Refer to the labels for rates.

Method: This will spray a solid even cone of herbicide in water mix over a 3-4 foot diameter circle. Measure carefully the size of circle you are spraying to calculate the area covered, the

amount of liquid used and then calculate the amount of herbicide to mix in with the water.

Waving Wand Hand Broadcast Spraying

Using a backpack sprayer, use a larger bore adjustable nozzle to walk at a comfortable pace while spraying horizontally in front of you while waving the wand left and right. This method takes a lot of practice, nozzle selection, and measurements to get good, even coverage on an area. Practice with water and a dye for best results. This method works well for small brush and weeds under knee high. A good applicator can cover many acres a day!

Mix: Most herbicides can be used with this tool, such as Oust, Velpar, Westar, Accord Conc., Garlon, and Atrazine. Refer to the labels for rates.

Spot Foliage Brush Spraying

Using a backpack sprayer you can spot spray the leaves of most brush for good control.

Mix: Most deciduous brush can be controlled with Accord Conc., Arsenal A.C., or Garlon. The best time for long-term control is in the late summer and fall before leaf coloration. The applied herbicide enters the leaves and goes down to the roots before winter to more thoroughly kill the plant. For general deciduous brush use 2% Accord Conc. + % Syl-Tac surfactant in water and spray lightly to wet. For Bigleaf Maples, use 2.5% Arsenal A.C. + % Syl-Tac surfactant in water. For blackberries and evergreen brush use 1% Garlon 4 + % Hasten surfactant in water.

Method: Spray the outside leaves lightly to wet, avoid contact of the spray onto desirable conifers.

Examples of rates: 1% Garlon 4 + % Hasten surfactant in water for excellent control of blackberries, scotchb-

room, and most brush. Spray the leaves lightly to wet. Best control is seen in mid Summer to before leaf fall. Blackberries can be controlled almost 12 months out of the year, but add more surfactant in the dead of winter.

For deciduous brush, spray 1.5%-2% Accord Concentrate + % Syl-Tac surfactant in water in mid to late summer before leaf coloration. This mix controls most deciduous brush (except bigleaf maples), also controls growing grasses and small broadleaf weeds.

Summary

This general guide should show you that there are many ways that you can control your competing vegetation by yourself without owning a helicopter! Always calibrate your equipment and yourself carefully to put on the right amount of chemical and surfactant so you can kill the weeds and not your trees. Always read the herbicide label carefully and follow the directions.

Give me a call if you have any further questions or to order chemicals! ■

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the February 2007 issue of the Forest-Tree Leader.

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