

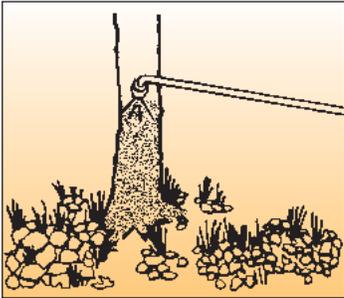
Don't overlook easy, economical, effective methods.

The best time to plant a shade tree, the saying goes, is 20 years ago. The second best time is now. Similarly, the best time to control invasive brush is probably before you noticed the encroachment. The second best time is now.

Spraying plants and patches when they're small may well save you a more-expensive broadcast application over the pasture later. And you'll prevent lost grass production.

Cost-effective herbicide treatments can be matched to your weed and brush problem, equipment, labor and time. Consider these options.

Low-volume basal



Low-volume basal (stem) sprays work well on smooth-barked trees less than 6 inches in basal diameter. Mix a solution of 25 percent Remedy® herbicide and 75 percent oil carrier (no water), or 50 percent PastureGard® herbicide and 50 percent oil carrier. Spray the stem from

where it emerges from the ground to a height of 12 to 15 inches. Wet all sides of the stem, but not to the point of runoff.

Pump-up garden sprayers work fine, but backpack sprayers may be more convenient. Oil-resistant seals such as Viton are more durable for longer equipment life. Also, it's helpful to have a shut-off at the wand tip to avoid wasted solution. Low pressure will keep your spray solution from bouncing off and being wasted.

With a basal spray, there's little chance for drift, and it's effective any time of year, including the dormant season. But don't basal-spray when snow or water surround the stem.

Low-volume basal sprays have proven effective on bois d'arc (Osage orange), eastern persimmon, honeylocust, mesquite, oaks, salt cedar and many other species.

High-volume foliar

Hand-applied, high-volume foliar (leaf) sprays are great for fencerows, scattered stands of brush, and small patches of invasive weeds. They're typically the fastest way to treat single plants, especially multi-stemmed brush or shrubby brush such as multiflora rose, sumac and plum.

With this method, you hand-spray a diluted herbicide solution directly on the leaves until the entire plant

Power sprayers are recommended for high-volume foliar application, but backpack sprayers will also work.



is covered and dripping wet. Thorough coverage of the foliage is essential. The method works best on trees and brush less than 8 feet tall.

Power sprayers are recommended, but pump-up and backpack sprayers can also work. Match your herbicide choice to the species you want to control. Include an agricultural surfactant in your spray mix to help coverage of the leaves.

For many brush species, it's time to spray after leaves have turned dark green and the plant is still growing, as in late spring and early summer. A few species can be sprayed successfully in the fall. If you're not sure about your brush, ask your county agent or Dow AgroSciences Range & Pasture Specialist.

Broadcast application

The level of brush control usually will be less with broadcast spraying than with any of these hand treatments. But, as a rule of thumb, broadcast foliar applications become cost-effective when brush densities exceed 300 plants per acre.

Plant conditions and spray coverage are critical with broadcast treatment. Timing depends on the target species. If the brush isn't too tall, boom sprayers generally provide better coverage than cluster nozzles.

The level of control is often reduced if the brush has been shredded. Shredding reduces the ratio of leaves to roots, and you need leaves to absorb the herbicide. Re-treatment the following year may be needed.

Which herbicide?

For foliar applications – broadcast or hand-applied – match your herbicide selection to the species or range of species you need to control.

For broad-spectrum brush control with residual activity to suppress seedlings after spraying, consider new Surmount™ herbicide. It's especially suited to pricklypear, black and honeylocust, persimmon, blackberry and bois d'arc. Surmount is a restricted use product requiring an applicator's license.

If you need a non-restricted use product providing excellent control of both brush and broadleaf weed species, consider new PastureGard® herbicide. It's particularly effective on blackberry and rose species. PastureGard also is the tool of choice to control *Sericea lespedeza*.

For the latest product, rate and timing recommendations, contact your area Dow AgroSciences Range & Pasture Specialist. ■