



Spraying at the right time with the right rate is the best way to get full value from weed control.

Follow six tips for cost-effective weed control.

Herbicides are most cost-effective when used at the right rate at the right time. To get the most benefit from your pasture weed spraying, Dow AgroSciences weed scientists offer these six tips.

1. Identify the weed problem.

Your choice of herbicides and recommended application rates will vary by weed species and timing. For most broadleaf weeds, GrazonNext® HL herbicide will be the cost-effective choice, but Chaparral™ herbicide controls some species – including Pensacola bahiagrass, ryegrass and many species of brush – that GrazonNext HL does not. Consult your dealer or local Dow AgroSciences Range & Pasture Specialist for a specific, local recommendation matched to your situation.

2. Use a calibrated sprayer or a professional applicator.

Calibration prevents both waste and expense of overapplication, and prevents reduced control from underapplication. It's the only way to get your money's worth. Don't guess.

3. Spray at the right time with the right rate.

Annual weeds in pastures are generally most susceptible early in the season when they're small and actively growing, and when soil moisture is adequate. Using GrazonNext HL or Chaparral at their highest labeled rates will provide longer soil residual activity to control weeds that germinate *after* spraying. You can get several weeks' control of many weed species.

4. Recognize that drought-stressed or mature weeds will be more difficult to control.

Effectiveness will be reduced if weeds don't have adequate moisture and aren't growing. Mature weeds have already limited your grass production. Don't spray unless you're willing to increase the rate within the labeled range or accept less control.

5. Follow label directions for application and mixing.

For ground broadcast, apply the recommended rate of herbicide in 10 to 20 gallons of total spray mixture per acre. Use the recommended rate of an agricultural surfactant to thoroughly wet the foliage. Consider a drift control additive to reduce drift and improve deposition.

6. Remember soil residual activity and plant residue.

While GrazonNext HL and Chaparral may provide season-long control of weeds in permanent grass pasture, they should not be used on cropland *or on land to be rotated to crops*. Remember too, grasses treated with any soil residual herbicide may carry herbicide residue that can be transferred to the soil by hay, livestock manure or urine. Be sure to read and observe all label precautions. ■

Do it right: Mixing order does matter.



If you're spraying pastures yourself, it pays to pay attention to the details.

One of those details is the mixing of the herbicide solution – the sum total of water, herbicide, surfactant and any other additives

– that you'll put in the tank and spray.

Do it wrong, and you can actually reduce the effectiveness of your treatment.

"It may not happen every time, but it can happen," says Dr. Charlie Hart, a Texas-based range scientist for Dow AgroSciences.

The reason gets into the finer points of chemistry. Bottom line: You can avoid the

problem by simply following the mixing directions on the label.

For herbicide applications with water (not fertilizer), here's the general procedure:

1. Put into your sprayer about half the water you'll use. Begin agitation.
2. Add the herbicide. Continue agitation.
3. Add additives such as surfactant or drift control agent and deposition aids. Continue agitation.
4. Add the rest of the water, and continue agitation.

Don't premix your herbicide with surfactant or other additives. It creates at least potential for a problem. Add them separately according to label directions.

Agitation here means recirculation or vigorous shaking. It's critical.

Most tractor-powered sprayers will have a recirculating pump. You can shake a backpack sprayer. If you're using something in between, find a way to provide agitation. One way is to start with less water in the tank, then add herbicide and additives a little bit at a time while using a garden hose to add water and stir.

A different kind of mix is the oil-water emulsion, although few applicators use it anymore. But if that's still your standard, consult the label because mixing directions are different.

If you're using liquid fertilizer as a carrier, be sure to consult the herbicide label for specific mixing instructions. With fertilizer as a carrier, it's critical to have vigorous agitation and to follow label directions on adding water. ■