Hand-spray small mesquite today
to save higher costs tomorrow.

The most cost-effective time to control brush is probably before it becomes a problem. You’re usually money ahead to spray when it’s small, sparse and easily treated by hand-spraying.

That’s before mesquite starts to rob significant grass production.

For ease of application in the summer spray season, Dow AgroSciences recommends a method of hand-spraying mesquite leaves known as leaf-spraying or high-volume foliar application.

**Leaf-spray with Sendero® herbicide**

Leaf-spraying works well on mesquite plants that are bushy, have many stems at ground level and are less than 8 feet tall.

The recommended mix for hand-spraying mesquite foliage is 1 percent Sendero® herbicide in water with a surfactant. See the leaf-spray mixing table on this page.

Spot applications of Sendero are limited to 1.75 pints per acre per year, so you’ll need an idea of how much total volume you will apply as you hand-spray.

Adding a dye such as Hi-Light blue dye to the spray mix will help you see your coverage of the plant and mark the plants you’ve treated.

Observe the same factors of soil temperature, mesquite foliage and growing conditions as you would for broadcast application. However, the season for hand-spraying mesquite lasts longer.

You can start leaf-spraying in the spring after soil temperatures at a depth of 12 to 18 inches reach 75 F. Mesquite leaves should have changed from the light pea green to a uniform dark green of mature foliage. The hand-spraying period lasts through July for East and South Texas and through September for West Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Pump-up garden sprayers, backpack sprayers, cattle sprayers or sprayers mounted on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) will all work. Make sure your sprayer has an adjustable cone nozzle capable of delivering coarse spray (large droplets).

**Sendero® herbicide is eligible for cost-share.**

Earlier this year, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service added Sendero® herbicide to its recommendations for hand-spraying mesquite leaves. (Aerial applications with Sendero had been added earlier.)

That means, where hand-spraying mesquite is cost-shared by state or federal programs administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS), Sendero now is eligible for cost-share, at least in Texas and Oklahoma, says Dow AgroSciences range scientist Charlie Hart. In both states, NRCS bases its cost-shared practices for mesquite on the Texas A&M recommendations.

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In research trials by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, leaf-spraying with the mix of Sendero at 1 percent averaged more than 90 percent rootkill.