



Whitney Murphy

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Ruminations

Learn more and share at these sites.

Our editor has likened our *Range & Pasture Steward* to 10 pounds of stuff in a 5-pound package.

We try to squeeze a lot of information in these pages, but there's always more to tell and more we'd like to hear from you. So we look at other channels. I'd like to mention three you can access via the Internet.

You may watch the RFD-TV show *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* when it airs, but did you know you can watch it online? You can access any of the many pasture management shows sponsored by Dow AgroSciences in the last five years. Go to www.cattlementocattlemen.org, look under Sponsor Segments and click Dow AgroSciences.

We're also partnering with *BEEF* magazine to bring you more pasture management topics on the magazine's website via a department called *Pasture Posts*. You can access it at www.beefmagazine.com. Look for the clickable banner.

Finally, we want to hear from you and give you a way to share with others. So check out our new website www.TogetherWeGrowGrass.com. Send us a story or photo or both that tells something about your life on the farm and ranch. You could earn a weekly prize or one of four \$1,000 grand-prize gift cards.

Tip for winning: Don't try to squeeze in too much. We can't wait to hear from you! ■

On the cover: Hamilton Ranch,
De Kalb, Texas

Manage to control spiny amaranth.

Spiny amaranth, and related pigweeds, such as redroot pigweed and smooth pigweed, rate among the most persistent weed problems in Southern pastures.

"There's a clue to this in their scientific name, which is derived from the Greek word for 'everlasting,'" says Pat Burch, a Virginia-based field scientist for Dow AgroSciences.

What makes spiny amaranth such a problem is its ability to germinate almost anytime over the growing season, Burch says. "You control the crop that's up when you spray, but there's a seed source for another crop behind that one."

So, to control spiny amaranth, you need a product that will kill the root and provide soil residual activity to control weed seedlings that germinate after spraying. You also need a good grass response to the weed control to provide grass cover.

Burch recommends two options: Chaparral™ herbicide at the labeled rate of 2 ounces per acre or GrazonNext® HL herbicide at the labeled rate of 2.1 pints per acre.



Smooth pigweed



Spiny amaranth pigweed

Either product is an excellent choice, but Chaparral controls a broader spectrum of weeds and offers a wider window of application. And it does not contain 2,4-D, which may be an advantage in areas where 2,4-D use is restricted in the summer.

Soil residual activity with either product doesn't last forever, though. Grass cover responding to the weed control, rainfall and other climatic conditions will determine length of control.

Many parts of the country – especially in areas where rainfall typically is limited – do receive season-long control from a single application, especially when the application isn't made until early summer and when a healthy competitive grass cover is maintained.

Without good grass cover, expect spiny amaranth to re-emerge after about four weeks – again, depending on rainfall and other conditions.

"Because of seed in the soil, it usually takes two consecutive years of treatment to get pigweed truly under control," Burch says. "So think two years. Spiny amaranth doesn't have to be everlasting." ■



Redroot pigweed

Label precautions apply to forage treated with Chaparral or GrazonNext HL and to manure from animals that have consumed treated forage within the last three days. Consult the label for full details.

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