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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 87-8] [May 8, 1987]

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**INSECT
PLANT DISEASE
WEED SCIENCE**

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
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87-8
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Leafy Spurge Control

Leafy spurge, an aggressive plant, continues to spread in Nebraska greatly reducing the carrying capacity of grazingland. Control on a large area is costly and difficult. Small patches should be treated before they spread and become a more costly problem. The ideal time to treat leafy spurge in much of Nebraska is from mid-May to early June. Leafy spurge is easily spotted at this time as the tops of plants are a bright yellow.

Herbicides for leafy spurge control are 2,4-D ester at 2 lb/A, 1 lb of 2,4-D + 1 pt of Banvel/A or Tordon 22K at 2 to 4 qt/A. The treatments would cost \$5.00 to \$8.00 per acre for 2,4-D or 2,4-D + Banvel and from \$45.00 to \$90.00 per acre for Tordon. Treatments with 2,4-D and Banvel should be made in the spring just before the plant flowers. A second treatment in the late fall, if moisture permits good regrowth, provides increased control. If only one treatment per year is possible, it should be made in the spring. Don't expect to get rid of leafy spurge in 1 or 2 years with 2,4-D and Banvel. It will take several years to make progress.

Tordon 22K is much more effective than 2,4-D or Banvel against leafy spurge. A 2 qt/A application usually provides 50-80% control a year later, and the 4 qt rate gives 90-100% control. Spring is the best time to apply Tordon, although it is also effective at other times of the year. Tordon is long-lasting and mobile in the soil. It should not be used near trees or on sandy soil where the water table is within 15 feet of the soil surface at any time.

Pasture Spraying and Grazing Restrictions

Grazing restrictions on sprayed pastures vary with the herbicide and the type of livestock. The only restriction with 2,4-D is that lactating dairy animals not be grazed on treated areas within 7 days after application. There are no restrictions on meat animal grazing.

(Continued)



With Banvel the grazing restrictions vary with the application rate and the type of livestock. Meat animals should be removed from treated areas 30 days before slaughter. For dairy animals the grazing restriction is 7 days for a 1 pt Banvel per acre application and 21 days for a 1 qt per acre application. Do not harvest hay for dairy animals within 37 days of a 1 pt per acre Banvel application and within 51 days of a 1 qt per acre application. There is no restriction on hay fed to meat animals. When Banvel is used with 2,4-D, grazing restrictions are the same as for Banvel alone.

Liquid fertilizers used as carriers for herbicide applications should not cause additional hazards to livestock. Grazing limitations would remain the same.

Buckbrush and Snowberry--Control Time Is Now

Buckbrush and western snowberry development is advanced due to early season warm temperatures. Research shows there's a brief two-week period in May during which 2,4-D performs effectively for the control of these two woody plant species. Control time is now -- May 10 to 25 in eastern and southern Nebraska. Northward, initial treatment could be delayed until May 20. Apply 1 1/2 quarts of low volatile 2,4-D ester (4 lbs active ingredient per gallon) per acre in enough water to provide good coverage.

Western snowberry and buckbrush are vegetatively similar in appearance. Western snowberry with white berries is most common in western Nebraska and to a lesser extent in the eastern part of the state. Buckbrush has red berries and is most prevalent in eastern Nebraska.

Poast and Fusilade for Grass Control in Ornamentals

Perennial grasses such as bromegrass, bluegrass, and quackgrass often become troublesome weeds in iris, peonies, other herbaceous plantings, and woody ornamentals. Likewise, annual grasses including crabgrass, foxtails, barnyardgrass, and annual bromes present somewhat similar problems. There is an answer.

Two soybean herbicides, Poast and Fusilade, are labeled for use in a wide variety of plants. Both products spell death for grasses but seldom harm broadleaf plants. Labels for the products differ. Poast is labeled on 35 species of shrubs, flowers, and ground covers. Fusilade 2000 lists close to 500 species on which the product can be used safely. Both Poast and Fusilade 2000 require additives such as crop oil concentrate or surfactants for effective results. The suggested mixing rate is 3 tablespoons per gallon of water plus 2 tablespoons of the additive. Apply as a wetting spray when there is good top growth on the unwanted grass.

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