DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

MP557

FORAGE HERBICIDE
Quick Reference Guide

As the name implies, this guide does not include every herbicide labeled for pasture weed control. It does include what we think are the some of the most effective products available for common weed problems in forages.

One herbicide will not control every weed. This is why many pasture weed control products contain two herbicides. Examples of combination products include Surmount, Grazon P+D, GrazonNext HL, Chaparral, Weedmaster, and Pastora. The same strategy applies where tank mixes are recommended in the Comments and Precautions section of Table 1.

Below are a few things to keep in mind that will improve weed control with herbicides.

1. **APPLY AT THE RIGHT TIME.** One of the biggest mistakes applicators make is spraying at the wrong time. Waiting until annual weeds are knee high or already flowering is a bad idea. Spraying small annual weeds equals better control. It is much easier to kill 2 to 4 inch ragweed versus 12 to 18 inch ragweed. Spray biennial weeds like thistle in the rosette stage of growth before they begin to flower. The optimum time for controlling perennials is in the fall. However, some perennials are effectively controlled when sprayed during bloom. Spray when weeds are actively growing. Do not apply herbicides to drought stressed weeds.

2. **TAKE TIME TO CAREFULLY SET UP AND CALIBRATE THE SPRAY RIG TO INSURE ACCURATE, UNIFORM APPLICATION.** The application volume for most forage spraying ranges from 10 to 25 gallons per acre. A reasonable target volume is 15 gallons per acre. Typical travel speed is three to four miles per hour.

3. **WHEN USING A BOOMLESS SPRAYER, SELECT A SWATH WIDTH TO ACHIEVE UNIFORM COVERAGE.** Actual swath width is almost always less than what is stated by the nozzle manufacturers. Remember that the height of the vegetation being sprayed and the wind direction relative to direction of travel will affect swath width. A slight overlap of the spray swaths is usually needed to avoid streaking.

4. **ADD A SURFACTANT TO IMPROVE COVERAGE WHEN USING A FOLIAR APPLIED HERBICIDE.** Add one quart of an 80/20 nonionic surfactant per 100 gallons of spray mix. Some herbicides tend to produce a lot of foam during tank filling. A silicone based de-foaming agent will eliminate this problem.

5. **MAKE FOLLOW UP APPLICATIONS WHEN TRYING TO CONTROL TOUGH PERENNIALS SUCH AS HORSENETTLE OR BLACKBERRY.** Spray when regrowth appears. Repeat applications are also essential in controlling brush with herbicides. Repeat treatments for brush are usually done the following year.

6. **IDENTIFY THE TARGET WEED OR WEEDS AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT HERBICIDE.** If unsure what the weeds are, get help from your county agent. When taking pictures for weed identification consider these suggestions. Show as much of the plant as possible, include a close-up, and make sure the photos are in focus. Take pictures in shade or on an overcast day to avoid shadows. If possible, include pictures of flowers, fruit, seed head, roots, stems, stickers, and leaf margins. See MP522 for color photos of pasture weeds.

TABLE 1. FORAGE HERBICIDE QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE				
HERBICIDE	**ACTIVE INGREDIENT(S)**	**PRODUCT RATE/ ACRE**	**COST/ACRE**	**COMMENTS AND PRECAUTIONS**
Roundup	glyphosate (4 lb./gal)	1 – 4 pints	$2 - $18	Non-selective. When applying to dormant bermudagrass, use 1-2 pts per acre. Tank mix with 1/3 to 1/2 ounce of metsulfuron for improved winter weed control. Especially henbit and wild garlic.
2,4-D amine	2,4-D amine (4 lb./gal)	1 – 4 pints	$2 - $7	Safe on white clover at rates of 1 quart per acre or less. Will severely damage most other clovers.
GRAZON P+D	picloram + 2,4-D	1 – 4 pints	$4 - $14	Controls many broadleaf weeds. There is a 30 day pre-harvest interval for hay. Picloram treated hay used for mulch may injure sensitive plants. Manure from animals that have eaten treated hay or grass may cause injury if used to fertilize sensitive plants.
GRAZONNEXT HL	2,4-D amine + aminopyralid	19 – 34 fluid ounces	$10 - $15	A spray application generally results in better weed control than applying on dry fertilizer. When using dry fertilizer as a carrier, apply a minimum of 32 fluid ounces per acre on at least 200 pounds of dry fertilizer per acre. Aminopyralid treated hay used for mulch may injure sensitive plants. Manure from animals that have eaten treated hay or grass may cause injury if used to fertilize sensitive plants.
WEEDMASTER	2,4-D amine + dicamba	1 – 4 pints	$3 - $13	Controls more weeds than 2, 4-D alone.
SURMOUNT	picloram + fluroxypyr	1.5 – 6 pints	$10 - $40	Best option for prickly pear. Do not plant legumes for minimum 1 year following application. Picloram treated hay used for mulch may injure sensitive plants. Manure from animals that have eaten treated hay or grass may cause injury if used to fertilize sensitive plants.
REMEDY ULTRA	triclopyr ester	2.0 – 3.0 pints	$11 - $30	Used primarily for woody plant control. Good blackberry treatment at 3 pints per acre. Apply when brush is actively growing. May be used as a cut stump treatment. See label for details. Tank mix with Grazon P+D for improved brush control.
PASTORA	metsulfuron + nicosulfuron	1.0 – 1.5 ounces	$16 - $24	Will temporarily yellow or stunt some bermudagrass varieties including World Feeder, Jiggs and Midland 99. If unsure, limit first use of Pastora to a small area. Provides excellent winter weed control where Roundup can't be used due to partial green up. Do not use on fescue.
CHAPARRAL 72 DF	aminopyralid + metsulfuron	1.0 – 3.3 ounces	$6 - $20	Controls a wide range of broadleaf weeds. Will stunt fescue and ryegrass. Will kill bahiagrass. Aminopyralid treated hay used for mulch may injure sensitive plants. Manure from animals that have eaten treated hay or grass may cause injury if used to fertilize sensitive plants.
METSULFURON 60DF	metsulfuron	0.25 – 1.0 ounce	$1 - $4	Provides broad spectrum control when tank mixed with glyphosate as a dormant bermudagrass treatment. Also tank mixes well with the growth regulator herbicides for improved broadleaf control. Good blackberry herbicide at 1.0 ounce per acre. Weak on thistles and ragweeds. Do not use on tall fescue, ryegrass and bahiagrass.
OUTRIDER 75DF	sulfosulfuron	1.33 ounces	$17	Controls johnsongrass (18-24" tall) and some sedges. There is a 14 day pre-harvest interval. Do not use on fescue.
PANORAMIC 2SL	imazapic	6 fluid ounces	$11	Best option for sandbur control. Will suppress bermudagrass for 30 to 45 days. Plan on losing one hay cutting.
PROWL H2O	pendimethalin	2.1 quarts	$24	Preemergence herbicide used for control of annual grasses. Provides little or no control of knotroot foxtail or dallisgrass. Needs ¼ – ½" rainfall within 7 days of application for activation. Tank mix with glyphosate or glyphosate plus metsulfuron for control of existing weeds in dormant bermudagrass.

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