

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL: HERBICIDE ADVICE FOR HOMEOWNERS

MARINA D'ABREAU, Ed.D.

Many plant species that are invasive occur on private property. Because these plants can serve as a source of infestation to natural areas, property owners are encouraged to remove them. Use this guide to lessen the confusion about the proper products to use for invasive plant species.

Look for the Right Ingredients!

Active Ingredient	Products*	Availability	Invasive Plants <i>(plants listed are specific to Central Florida)</i>
Glyphosate	Roundup (various)	Retail supply	air potato, cogon grass, Guinea grass, Japanese/Old World Climbing Fern, kudzu, Mexican petunia, rosary pea, torpedo grass, tropical soda apple
	Rodeo	Farm supply	
Triclopyr amine (water-based product)	Garlon 3A	Farm supply	air potato, Chinese tallow, rosary pea, skunk vine, tropical soda apple, castor bean
	Brush-B-Gon (various)	Retail supply	
	Brush Killer	Retail supply	
Triclopyr ester (oil-based product)	Garlon 4	Farm supply	Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, carrotwood, Chinaberry, Chinese tallow, lead tree, melaleuca, rosary pea, skunk vine, tropical soda apple, castor bean, camphor bean, paper mulberry
	Pathfinder II	Farm supply	
	Vine-x	Internet	

* This is not a complete list of available herbicide products.

Herbicide Use

The manufacturer will recommend on the herbicide label those species for which it has sufficient control data. Herbicide products with the active ingredients triclopyr or glyphosate are effective for controlling invasive plant species that are not always listed in the labels. It is legal to apply a herbicide to control a plant species that is not listed on the label as long as the herbicide is applied to a site approved on the label.

Cautions

- Always follow directions for use on the manufacturer's label of specific herbicides.
- Avoid foliar spray application in windy conditions (> 5 mph winds).
- Do not apply herbicides if rain is expected within 24 hours after application.
- Do not use oil-based herbicides in or near a water body to avoid risk of environmental contamination.

Methods for Removing Invasive Plants

Hand-pulling – Consider this option if the infestation is minor and plants are still small.

Foliar Spray – Apply diluted herbicide to the leaves (foliage) of unwanted plants. Avoid contact with desired plants and water bodies.

Cut Stump – Treat freshly cut stump of unwanted trees, shrubs, and large vines with non-diluted, oil- or water-based herbicides to kill it and prevent re-sprouting.

Basal Bark – For trees and shrubs with bark diameters 6 inches or less, apply oil-based herbicides to the bark without first cutting down the plant.

Invasive Potential of Plants

Invasive plants are non-native plants that alter the functions and value of natural areas by displacing native species and disrupting natural processes such as fire and water flow. Some plants may have the potential to become invasive in a homeowner's landscape if not managed properly. Plants that grow rapidly and/or produce seeds that can be consumed and transported by animals should be watched closely.

Additional Resources

UF-IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants
<http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment.html>

Control of Non-Native Plants in Natural Areas of Florida (EDIS Document)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG209>

Help Protect Florida's Natural Areas from Non-Native Invasive Plants (EDIS Document)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG108>

A Primer on Invasive Species in Coastal and Marine Waters (EDIS Document)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SG075>

Herbicides to Kill Invasive Trees in Home Landscapes (EDIS Document)
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG259>

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
<http://floridayards.org>