

# Pasture and Hay Field Weed Control for Texas

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Good weed control can be achieved in pastures and hay fields if attention to detail is followed. It is a matter of targeting the correct weed, at the proper growth stage, with a labeled herbicide, under the right environmental conditions and with a well calibrated sprayer. If these things are done, control will be excellent in most cases.

First, you must correctly identify the weed. Ask for help or refer to online images to make sure you know what your problem plant is. If you don't know what your target species is, it is hard to control it.

Choose a herbicide that is labeled for the crop and is labeled to kill your target weeds. The chart accompanying this article can help you select a herbicide that will best meet your needs. You may need to consider other factors beyond whether a particular herbicide will kill the weeds you have. The label will also tell you if the product is particularly damaging to legumes, how long you must wait to plant certain crops after using the herbicide and how long you must wait before harvesting a treated field for hay or grazing cattle, as well as other precautions to follow.

Read the herbicide label to determine when to spray. Most herbicides should be sprayed when the weeds are at a certain growth stage. Usually, this is when the weeds are small and actively growing. However, a few weeds, such as blackberries, sericea lespedeza and horsenettle should be sprayed when they are larger. Pesticide companies invest a great deal of money to create the label. Read and follow the label instructions, and your success in controlling weeds will



increase dramatically.

Herbicides must be sprayed under certain environmental conditions for best results. Spraying under the wrong conditions can cause at least two problems. One is poor weed control. The most common environmental situations that cause poor weed control are hot and dry conditions that have the plants under drought stress. If the plants are not actively growing, they will be much harder to kill. Another problem that can occur if you spray under adverse conditions is off-target spray drift. Killing the weeds in your fields is a good idea. Killing or damaging the neighbor's crops, gardens or ornamental plants is not. Make sure the wind speed is within the labeled recommendation and make sure the wind direction is blowing away from non-target, sensitive plants. Keep a log of the weather

conditions when you started and finished spraying (wind speed, direction, temperature, etc.). Make sure the log is detailed – not just approximate wind speed and direction.

Calibrate your sprayer. You cannot know how much product to add to the sprayer if you do not know how much volume the sprayer is applying. Proper sprayer calibration takes a little time, but is essential for executing a good weed control program. Sprayer calibration programs and instructions are available from the Noble Foundation website at [www.noble.org/Tools](http://www.noble.org/Tools), [www.noble.org/ag/soils/boomlessprayercalibration](http://www.noble.org/ag/soils/boomlessprayercalibration) and [www.noble.org/ag/soils/boomsprayercalibration](http://www.noble.org/ag/soils/boomsprayercalibration).

If you adhere to all the practices discussed in this short list, your chances for a successful weed control program should be very good. ■

Trade Name	Texas Restricted Use Pesticide	Bitter sneezeweed (common, annual)	Broom snakeweed	Broomweed (common, annual)	Buffalobur	Bullnettle	Carolina Horsenettle	Cocklebur	Croton	Lеспедеза	Marshelder (sumpweed)	Pricklypear, tasajillo	Ragweed	Rayless goldenrod	Smartweed	Sunflower	Thistles	Upright Prairie-coneflower	Western bitterweed	Western ragweed	Wild carrot	Common Name
Banvel *	R	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Dicamba
Cimarron Max	R	VH	H-VH	VH	VH	H-VH	H-VH	VH	VH	H	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Metsulfuron: Dicamba: 2,4-D
Cimarron Plus			VH	VH						H												Metsulfuron: Chlorosulfuron (3:1)
Cimarron X-tra			VH	VH						H												Metsulfuron: Chlorosulfuron (1:1)
Escort *			VH	VH						H												Metsulfuron
Grazon P+D *	R	VH	VH		VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	H	VH	VH i	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Picloram:2,4-D (1:4)
GrazonNext	R	VH			VH			VH	VH		VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Aminopyralid: 2,4-D
Milestone		VH	VH	VH	VH			VH	VH		VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Aminopyralid
PastureGard		H			H			H	H	VH	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	Triclopyr:Fluroxypyr (3:1)
Remedy *										VH												Triclopyr
Spike 20P			VH																			Tebuthiuron
Surmount	R	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH i	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Picloram:Fluroxypyr (1:1)
Tordon 22K *			VH									VH i	VH	VH								Picloram
Vista *												VH i										Fluroxypyr
Weedar 64 *	R	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	2,4-D Amine
Weedmaster *	R	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	Dicamba: 2,4-D
Weedone LV4 *	R	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	VH	2,4-D LV Ester

\* - There are many generic formulations labeled for use.

Treatment control ratings: VH - Very High (76-100% Control); H - High (56-75% Control); M - Moderate (36-55% Control); L - Low (0-35% Control); i - Individual Plant/Spot Treatment.

## Weed Response Ratings For Pasture and Range Herbicides In Texas

Use of product and trade names does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the products listed. It is not an endorsement of one product over another comparable product. Grazing restrictions are listed on the label and must be followed. This is not a substitute for the label. Refer to the label for recommended rates for targeted species.

**Read and follow all labeled directions as the label is the law!**

The weed control information provided within is taken from data provided by Texas A&M University. This is intended to serve only as a guide for herbicides labeled as of May 2010.

Adapted from: Chemical Weed and Brush Control, Suggestions for Rangelands, B-1466, Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, 5/10.