

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**Herbaceous Weed Control
(AC.)
CODE 315**

Herbaceous weeds should be treated to meet the land resource objectives and associated resource concerns according to the Herbaceous Weed Control (315) standard.

In Arkansas, treatment of herbaceous weeds identified as invasive are priority. This specification will provide information about a variety of herbaceous weeds. However, for financial assistance, identified invasive weeds will only be targeted. A list of targeted invasive weeds can be found on the Herbaceous Weed Control job sheet.

Treatment Methods

The best long-term treatment option is to adjust site conditions and/or management to allow forages to outcompete undesirable weeds. Weeds are commonly a result of the lack of existing desirable vegetation. Desirable forages are typically depleted in a pasture due to either low soil nutrients/pH or poor grazing management. These two management practices must be evaluated and considered before long-term weed control can be accomplished.

Chemical

Herbicide is the most recognized method of effective weed control in Arkansas. AR NRCS staff will not provide herbicide recommendations for Herbaceous Weed Control (315). Herbicide recommendations from the Cooperative Extension Service or other qualified individuals are required. Herbicide recommendations should be species specific and should relate to the resource inventory.

The Herbaceous Weed Control job sheet provides pre-cautions and additional safety measures to be followed.

Even though herbicide application is a very effective measure to treat undesirable species, multiple applications are often required to meet objectives.

Below is general guidance on herbicide application times for specific species.

Species	Preferred Treatment Time ¹	Additional Comments
Buttercup	Late February to early March;	Apply grazing pressure to buttercups early in the year. Apply herbicide just before it flowers if weed population is a concern.
Wolly Croton	May to early June	Spray when weeds are less than 12 inches.
Horsenettle	June to August	Apply herbicide between bloom and fruit set.
Perilla Mint	Late May or early June	Apply herbicide before the plant is 12" tall.
Redroot Pigweed	Apply herbicide during full season that the plant is actively growing.	Emergence of pigweed after initial treatment may be due to residue seed in the soil.
Thistle (Bull, Musk, Milk)	Late February to Early March; Late October to November	Ideally, apply herbicide while thistles are in the rosette stage of growth.

Species	Preferred Treatment Time ¹	Additional Comments
Cocklebur	May to mid-July	Apply herbicide while cocklebur is actively growing.
Dock, Curly	February-April	Apply herbicide while curly dock is actively growing.
Buckhorn Plantain	March to April; October to November	Apply herbicide while plantain is actively growing.
Red Sorrel	March to April	Apply herbicide anytime red sorrel is actively growing.
Ragweed, Common	May to mid-June	Apply herbicide when common ragweed is 2-4 inches tall.
Ragweed, Lanceleaf	May to mid-June	Apply herbicide when lanceleaf ragweed is 2-4 inches tall.
Bitterweed	April to May	Apply herbicide before it flowers. Bitterweed is indicative of poor soils.

¹The preferred treatment time will depend on environmental and other factors.

Clover Damage

Many herbicides will kill all clovers. White clover has some tolerance to 2,4-D amine at rates up to 1lb ai/A. 2,4-D amine will kill other clovers (red clover, crimson).

Herbicide Application

Proper application is required for Herbaceous Weed Control (315). Review University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service publication MP-44 for sprayer calibration guidance.

Excessive quantity of herbicide applied can have negative effects to desirable grasses. Inadequate quantity of herbicide applied may not provide the optimum results.

Mechanical

Brush hogging should only be advised for immediate removal of specific weeds with the expectation that weeds will re-emerge.

Biological

The only approved biological treatment is with grazing livestock.

Cattle

Increase the stock density of a pasture to decrease the grazing selectivity. Cattle will graze many weeds. Identify weeds present in the pasture. Do not attempt this treatment if toxic weeds are present. Adjust the stock density with temporary electric fence.

Small Ruminants

Sheep and goats prefer many of the targeted weeds in pastures. Use mixed species grazing to efficiently target undesirable plants. Identify plant species that will be targeted. Evaluate current fences and plan fences suitable for small ruminant control. Refer to Fence (382) specifications and fact sheets for additional information on fencing small ruminants. Furthermore, refer to Prescribed Grazing (528) fact sheets on more information about grazing small ruminants.

References

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service; MP-522; Pasture Weed Control in Arkansas.