Herbaceous Weed Control

Control of Herbaceous Invasive Species

Conservation Practice Job Sheet Code 315

PARTICIPANT NAME:

_____

Information on this job sheet is considered to be part of the contract and/or conservation plan.

PURPOSE

This practice pertains to the removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive noxious or other problem plants.

Landowners can use this practice to enhance the quantity and quality of forage; to restore or release native plant communities and wildlife habitats, protect soils and control erosion. It may also be utilized to facilitate future activities such as silviculture.

It should not be utilized for removal of vegetation where a landuse change is desired or for removal of native woody or herbaceous species.

Invasive species refer to several species that have become established in KY. Some examples include, but are not limited to: sericea lespedeza, fescue, reed canary grass, Bermuda grass, crown or hairy vetch, smooth brome, Japanese honeysuckle, and sweet clover. Undesirable woody species small enough to treat with mowing and/or broadcast herbicide applications may also be treated under this practice. In a forested setting, these invasives will envelop and smother or inhibit the native species that forest-dwelling wildlife depend on for food and cover.

GENERAL CONTROL METHODS

Prescribed treatments may be mechanical, biological or chemical. These treatments may be used alone or in combination with one another. In most situations they are more effective if they are used in combination or concurrently. The best control treatments take into account the amount, age and size of the stand.

A. Mechanical Treatment

Mechanical control is an option for landowners that do not wish to utilize chemicals. However, this option is very labor intensive and time consuming and sometimes the least effective option. Mechanical control involves the physical removal of plants by hand-pulling or mowing. Follow up treatment (often multiple times) will be required to control regrowth.

B. Biologic Control

NRCS cannot develop biological treatment recommendations except for biological control utilizing grazing animals. Species that occur in forested settings are generally not recommended for biological treatment. Biological recommendations should be limited to flash grazing and designed to protect the established native vegetation and other resources. Continual treatment will be required to control regrowth.

C. Chemical Control

The most effective way to control invasive species is with herbicides. If chemicals are used, follow all label requirements including mixing/loading setbacks from wells, intermittent streams and rivers, natural or impounded ponds, lakes and reservoirs or any other waterbodies.

Herbicide treatment timing is very important

for success. Herbicides must be applied when the target is actively growing. Timing may be used to target an undesirable species in a stand that includes desirable species. An example of this would be to use a broad spectrum herbicide to treat fescue in early spring when desirable warm season vegetation is still dormant.

Select a chemical that will be effective in the first application. Often times, a mechanical treatment such as mowing or grazing must occur in conjunction with chemical application for the initial treatment. Grazing should always be performed in accordance with a management plan. Refer to Prescribed Grazing code 528. Prescribed burning may also be a viable option for reducing vegetation to ensure good herbicide contact with targeted species. Prescribed burning must be done according to a detailed written burn plan from KDFWR, The Nature Conservancy, or other qualified NRCS Technical Service Provider.

Chemical Application

Several steps are required to get successful control when using herbicide. The first step is to mow or graze the area in late summer for a fall herbicide burn down; or in late fall or early spring for a spring herbicide application. If possible, after mowing and prior to herbicide application, remove residue/hay to allow for better herbicide contact with vegetation. The herbicide should be applied when the targeted vegetation is actively growing and has at least 4-6 inches of regrowth after mowing.

If needed/planned, a second herbicide application should occur after the remaining targeted vegetation is actively growing and has at least 4-6 inches of regrowth after the initial herbicide application. A second herbicide application is almost always required for dense fescue, sericea lespedeza and other species where competition may not be controlled by one herbicide application. These species are almost never controlled with one herbicide application.

NRCS does not provide specific chemical recommendations. However, they may be provided by the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) biologists and/or the KY Division of Forestry (KDF) or the UK Cooperative Extension Service. In addition, NRCS pesticide screening information entitled *Windows Pesticide Screening Tool* (Win-PST) may be provided with this jobsheet if chemical application is planned. If provided, this document assesses the environmental risks associated with pesticides. In rare instances, additional practices could be planned to mitigate for high risk pesticides.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

In order to maintain the desired vegetative stage, it will be necessary to periodically setback succession with practices such as prescribed burning, strip disking, strip mowing or other selective herbicide applications. These may be used in conjunction with this practice to maintain quality early successional habitat.

Multiple treatments may be necessary to eradicate an unwanted plant population from an area. Scout the fields at least annually and spot treat any undesirable plants as they are identified.

Landowners should maintain records of control for at least two years. Herbicide application records should be in accordance with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Pesticide Recordkeeping Program or any program-specific requirements.

Note: *Some program regulations may further restrict application or maintenance of this practice. For example, hay removal or grazing may not be allowed if the area is currently under a CRP contract. Contact the local NRCS office if you are unclear.*

SAFETY INFORMATION	
National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) (Non-Emergency)	1-800-858-7384
Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTRAC)	1-800-424-9300

REFERENCES:

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Science and laboratories, Pesticide Recordkeeping Program (PRP) available at: http://www.ams.usda.gov/

National Pesticide Information Center - NPIC is a cooperative agreement between Oregon State University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency available at: http://npic.orst.edu/index.html

The Greenbook Group – Chemical Data Delivery Solutions available at: http://www.greenbook.net/

Read and follow label directions and maintain appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). MSDS and pesticide labels may be accessed on the Internet at:

http://www.greenbook.net/
http://www.cdms.net.

Operations must always comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances. Always dispose of herbicides and herbicide containers in accordance with the label directions and comply with all federal, state and local regulations.

University of Kentucky publication "Weed Management in Grass Pastures, Hay Fields, and Other Farmstead Sites" (AGR-172); Washburn, B. E. and Barnes, T. G., 2000,

“Native Warm-Season Grass and Forb Establishment Using Imazapic and 2, 4-D”, Native Plants Journal, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 61-69; and

The University of Tennessee publication “Native Warm-Season Grasses: Identification, Establishment and Management for Wildlife and Forage Production in the Mid-South” (P B1752)

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SPECIFICATIONS

Control of Herbaceous Invasive Species – KY Job Sheet

Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. This information is considered part of the conservation plan. Use additional sheets as necessary.

Client:	**Farm #:**	**Tract #:**
Applicable Field(s):	**Program** (If applicable)	
Planned/Designed By:		**Date:**

PURPOSE (check all that apply)		
☐ **Chemical Control**	☐ **Mechanical Control**	☐ **Biologic Control** (specify in the *Additional Notes*)
☐ Control of herbaceous vegetation in woodland settings	☐ Forest management plan developed by certified forestry TSP or KY Division of Forestry	

CONTROL – Complete the following table as applicable for control of undesirable woody species.			
☐ Also see the attached information	CPU/Field #_____	CPU/Field #_____	CPU/Field #_____
Herbaceous Species (to be controlled)			
Acres to be treated			
Landuse (setting)			
Initial Application Date			
Initial Mechanical Control Treatment (equipment)			
Initial Biologic Control Treatment (specify livestock type) – specify in additional notes			
Initial Chemical Control Treatment [2]			
Initial Prescribed Burning Required [3]			
Follow-up Application Date			
Follow-up Treatment [1 or 2]			
Follow-up Application Date (3rd year)			
Follow-up Treatment [1 or 2]			
WIN/PST Risk Assessment attached [4]			

[1] **Mechanical Control Method** – Identify the type of equipment as hand-pulling, mowing, Prescribed Burning or other. If not needed indicate as N/A.

[2] **Initial Chemical Method** – Describe as *backpack sprayer*, *spray boom*, *aerial*, *spot application/spray, foliar* spray or *other* (describe in the additional procedures section)

[3] **Prescribed Burning –** Must be performed in accordance with a detailed written burn plan from KDFWR, The Nature Conservancy, or a qualified Technical Service Provider. Refer to CPS 338 Prescribed Burning.

[4] **WIN/PST Assessment** – Indicate as YES, NO or N/A. At a minimum, attach a PAIR report for the dominant soil type if applicable.

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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices or measures and additional specifications may be included.

Refer to the conservation plan map for locations of specific conservation practices.

Operation and Maintenance or Additional Specifications or Notes:

Follow the procedures and methods for Operation and Maintenance as outlined in the section of this document entitled "Operation and Maintenance". List any special mitigation, timing considerations or other factors (such as soil texture, organic matter content or mitigating practice) that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective herbicide application; or see any attached references. Follow all label and safety requirements when applying pesticides. **Additional**:

Certifications

Job Sheet	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
Installation	**Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications**		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:

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