

Invasive Weed Management

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Roundup Herbicide



Johnsongrass: too healthy for good of other crops

Johnsongrass is so enthusiastic about growing that it has come to be classed as a noxious weed, and you can even find yourself fined if you let it grow on your property.

The fact that Johnsongrass can crowd out worthwhile plants-- specifically crops -- has resulted in a continuing program to stamp it out, or at least prevent it from spreading further.

Richard W. Goerger is the state coordinator of the program to hold Johnsongrass in check. He has the job of enforcing the law against allowing Johnsongrass to grow and spread.

More than 100 of the infested farms are in various sections of Kent County.

Goerger says there isn't much of a problem in finding the weed since a neighboring farmer is anxious to report it and hopefully stop the spread of the weed to his property.

It's a no-nonsense law. Last year Family Court Judge David P. Buckson was among those with property infested by Johnsongrass and he had to pay a fine because he let it grow to seed stage.

JOHNSONGRASS is native to the Mediterranean area and was introduced to this country about 1800 as a forage crop. It is still considered of value as a

forage crop in some southeastern states.

Like some other crops and wildlife brought to America, Johnsongrass in time became a problem instead of a boon. Its prolific seed-producing capacity caused it to spread beyond control and research on how to keep it in check began as early as 1902.

Although Johnsongrass is generally considered to be a southern weed problem, it has become a serious pest in Delaware in the past 10-20 years, leading to the passage of a law in 1970 providing for control. There are now some 300 farms in the state are infested with Johnsongrass, about 15 percent of the total number of Delaware farms.

THERE IS HELP at hand for those who want to get rid of Johnsongrass. A federal program will pay half the cost of spraying the grass. This effort is administered in Kent County by Lister Hall Jr. County executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Goerger and Hall recently visited the farm of Marvin Thompson near Little Heaven to see a Johnsongrass control program at work. Thompson recently sprayed 50 acres of the noxious weed under supervision of the state and federal offices.

Goerger said that the severe winter apparently held Johnsongrass in check to some degree this year, but it is such a strong and fast-growing plant that vigilance against its spread

cannot be relaxed.

If you have a tall, broad-leaved grass growing on your property, contact Dick Goerger at 678-4813. You'll be doing him, and yourself, a favor.



RICHARD GOERGER AND LISTER HALL observe the killing effect of Roundup herbicide on Johnson grass at the farm of Marvin Thompson near Little Heaven.

Johnsongrass control:

Glyphosate products (Roundup)

Post emerge products (Select, Fusilade, Poast)

Turf and Ornamental label products: Envoy, Ornamec 170

Mowing frequently.

Fall tillage.

Don't forget your shovel or pitch fork. Dig it out. Be sure to get all of the rhizomes.





White Midrib

Another identification tool for Johnsongrass.



Seed head

1556496



Canada Thistle

Canada Thistle was added to Delaware's noxious weed list in 1982.



Rosette State

Canada thistle in the rosette stage is easy to kill. Be sure to re-check area to treat future emerging plants. Canada thistle is known to develop roots up to thirteen feet deep.



Seed head in bud stage.

We try to prevent seed production. Mow, till or spray before the thistle starts to produce seed heads. Clopyralid products are flexible. Stinger for field corn, Transline for CRP, Right-of-way, and Lontrel has a few uses in Ornamental settings. Always read and follow the label requirements.



Burcucumber

Burcucumber was added to the noxious weed list in 1986. At that time there were not many herbicides label for post-emergence control of this plant in corn and beans. Total crop loss was the result of not controlling burcucumber..



Seed Cluster

New herbicide technology in the 90's and new high clearance spray equipment have led to much less burcucumber in Delaware.



Giant Ragweed

Giant Ragweed was also added to the noxious weed list in 1986. The weed was brought into the state in soybean seed.



Nice Crop

Giant ragweed is able to out grow most agricultural crops. Herbicide and crop technology has greatly reduced the spread of this weed.

“Giant” Ragweed





Giant Ragweed Leaves

Giant Ragweed Seeds



UGA5138044

Palmer Amaranth



Water marks on leaves.



Male plant

Female plant

Palmer Amaranth seed Heads









Crab Grass



Texas Panicum



Crab Grass roots.

Texas Panicum Roots



Kudzu - The Vine

A Kudzu fantasy land





Not in my neighborhood



Kudzu flower. Not worth the trouble.



This Felton Kudzu site was treated in 1999. Then farmed for 2 years. Neglected until 2011. Treated annually 2011 thru 2019. Cut it off of trees and spray on the ground. Some cut stump treatments in 2013.

Chemical:

Glyphosate, clopyralid (Transline), metsulfuron (Escort) and aminopyralid (Milestone VM) can be used to control kudzu. Follow label directions and precautions.

Glyphosate (5% solution) can be an effective option for small stands growing up poles or fences in residential areas. However, glyphosate is weak on kudzu and repeat applications will be necessary. Likewise, clopyralid (Transline) is effective on young stands where kudzu is not well established. Clopyralid (21 fl. oz/A or 0.5% solution) is more effective than glyphosate and is safe to apply near trees. (see Transline label for specifications). Metsulfuron (Escort 4 oz/A) and aminopyralid (Milestone VM 7 fl. oz/A) are highly effective on kudzu and commonly approach 100% control. Metsulfuron may cause damage to selected hardwoods if applied over the rootzone. Source: Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative in the Parks-UFL.

Tips for control

- Cut the vines off of trees, if you want the trees
- Only spray when the kudzu leaves are dry
- Cut and paint treat large vines
- Use aquatic approved chemicals near water
- Spray all sides of raised piles
- Go back after one week to treat missed spots
- Add Surfactants to spray mix.
- Don't believe all that you read on the net

More tips for control

- If using Transline and Roundup-spring and fall
- Try not to spray over your head
- Watch out for varmints and insects
- Get all parties involved
- Don't forget the goats



[Bamboo and Kudzu]



- Noxious weed specialists field calls about bamboo control year round
- Federal grants are allowing the noxious weed unit the ability to treat several sites of Kudzu vine infestation around the state





Bamboo Facts?

- Bamboo is a grass. Brush killer will not work on it. You have to kill all of it to get rid of the spreading problem.
- Cut stump method: Cut and paint with full strength Glyphosate 41% product within 15 seconds. Works best in fall. Will kill adjoining stalks. Don't pour herbicide down the shoot. Just paint the top edge of stalk.
- Cut it off and treat re-growth with high rate of Glyphosate after leaves open. Fall is the best time to spray re-growth.
- Cut and cover with tarps. Fair results.
- Don't burn cut stalks. It is like a tire fire.
- May take several years to kill runners that are not visible at first.
- Buried barriers often fail.
- Spring spray?

Porcelain-berry Control



- The biggest problem is treatments kill trees if the porcelain-berry is climbing up the trees.

Porcelain-berry damage



White Mulberry





Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus)



Identification is key



Giant Hogweed



Control methods

- Manually pull or Mechanically destroy plants.
- Girdling plants.
- Tillage of area.
- Burning.
- Spraying, cut stump, wiper, hack/squirt, and basal bark methods of herbicide application.
- Tarps and or plastic covers.



Questions

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