

PASTURE WEEDS

Weed Control in Pastures

What is a weed? A weed is any plant that is a hazard, nuisance, causes injury to man or animals, or his desired crops. Basically, a weed is any plant growing out of place. For example, sunflower would be considered a weed if it is growing in your bermudagrass hay field. Weeds can be divided into three categories: grasses, broadleaves and sedges.

Grasses

True grass weeds have hollow, rounded stems and nodes (joints) that are closed and hard. The leaf blades have parallel veins, are much longer than they are wide, and alternate on each side of the stem. Grasses are further divided into bunch-type grasses and creeping grasses. Bunch-type grasses grow in clumps and mainly reproduce by seed. Examples of bunch-type grass weeds include vaseygrass and smutgrass. Creeping grasses have specialized stems called stolons and rhizomes that allow them to store food and to send up new shoots. Stolons are above ground stems and rhizomes are below ground stems. Creeping grass weeds include cogongrass, Bermudagrass and torpedograss.

Broadleaves

Broadleaf weeds are a highly variable group of plants however most have showy flowers and net-like veins in their leaves. They are easy to separate from grasses due to their generally different leaf structure and habits of growth. Examples of broadleaf weeds include sicklepod, coffe senna, wild radish, coral ardesia and showy crotalaria.

Sedges

Sedges are an important group of "grass-like" weeds, but they are not true grasses. They are characterized by a solid, triangular-shaped stem with leaves extending in three directions and are usually referred to as nutgrass. Examples of sedge weeds include purple and yellow nutsedges. An important note is that herbicides that are designed to control grasses will NOT control sedges.

Weeds can be further classified by their life cycle. Summer annual weeds germinate in the spring and flower, produce seed, and die before winter. Examples include sicklepod, showy crotalaria, and coffe senna. Winter annuals germinate in the fall, flower, and produce seed before spring. Examples include wild radish, chickweed and fireweed (stinging nettle).

Biennial weeds complete their life cycle in two years. They usually germinate in the fall and in the first year produce a large root system and cluster of leaves. The next year they flower, produce seed, and die. Examples include cudweed and bull thistle. Weeds that live longer than 3 years are called perennials.

Chemical Weed Control

Herbicides are any chemical used to control unwanted plants. Herbicides can be classified into several groups.

Selective herbicides kill some plants but leave other plants unharmed. Examples include Remedy and WeedMaster. Both will control broadleaf weeds but leave most grasses unharmed. Nonselective herbicides damage both the weed and the crop. A good example would be glyphosate.

Herbicides are also classified as systemic or contact. Systemic herbicides move about the plant, while contact herbicides kill only the part of the plant that it touches. Finally, foliar herbicides are applied to the plant leaves and absorbed into the plant, while in soil applied herbicides the primary mode of entry into the plant is through the root system.

Days between herbicide application to forage or pasture for feeding, grazing or animal slaughter

Herbicide	Non-lactating Cattle			Lactating Dairy Cattle		Horses
	Grazing	Hay Cutting	Slaughter	Grazing	Hay Cutting	
Aim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banvel						
Up to 1 pt	0	0	30	7	37	0
Up to 1 qt	0	0	30	21	51	0
Up to 2 qt	0	0	30	40	70	0
Cimarron Plus and Cimarron Xtra	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleanwave	0	7	0	0	7	0
2,4-D	0	30	3	7	30	0
Forefront	0	7	0	0	7	0
Impose or Panoramic	0	7	0	0	7	0
Journey	0	7	0	0	7	0
Milestone	0	0	0	0	0	0
PastureGard	0	14	3	1 season	1 season	0
Remedy Ultra	0	14	3	1 season	14	0
Roundup WeatherMax	60	60	14	60	60	60
Dormant application	0	0	0	0	0	0
Between cuttings	28	28	28	28	28	28
Pasture renovation	56	56	56	56	56	56
Telar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Velpar	60	60	0	60	60	60
2,-D + dicamba (Weedmaster, others)	0	37	30	7	37	0
Vista	0	7	2	0	7	0
N/A = No information available.						

To simplify information available, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products, equipment and firms. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products, equipment and firms not mentioned.

Information for this handout including the chart was compiled from *Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland – 2011* by: J.A. Ferrell and B. A. Sellers. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG006>



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