Weed Control Basics

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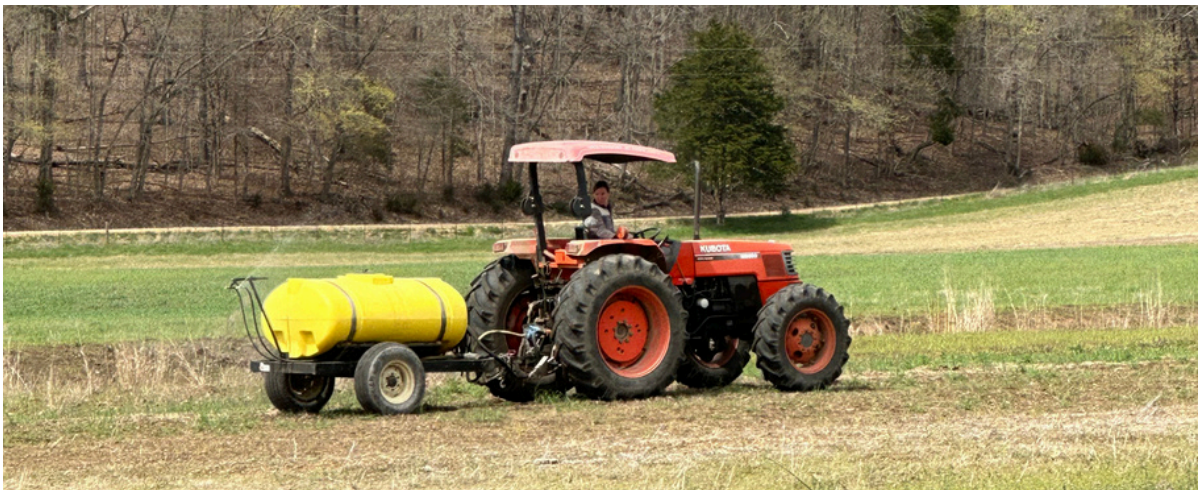


Success begins at planting. It continues with weed control

Weed control is one of the most important aspects of establishment and maintenance of native warm season grasses.

A well planted stand can fail or be set back due to weed competition throughout the first year's growing season. After the first year, most weeds will likely be in check.

Each planting and field is unique. Cropping history or existing weed pressure may dictate what species are planted and what weeds are likely to be an issue.

For example, when converting a field from tall fescue to native warm season grasses, tall fescue will be one of the biggest issues the first few years.

In cropped fields, pigweeds are likely to be the most common weed.

Different weed control options are outlined to help you make management decisions based on specific needs.

Please contact us with any questions you may have. Your success is our success and we want to help you along the way.

Ozark Native Seed Team

Weed Control Methods

Pre-Planting Weed Control

When planting a new stand of native grass, it is important to start with a clean weed free seedbed. Reducing weeds before planting can decrease problems and potential stand failure. There are several options for controlling existing vegetation, however the most common is application(s) of glyphosate or other non-selective herbicides before planting.

Control may be accomplished in a single application for relatively weed free areas. In areas where there is dense weed infestations or when converting cool season pastures, it may take several applications. When killing perennials like tall fescue and other pasture grasses use the highest labeled rate of your chosen herbicide for adequate control.

Tall fescue is one of the most troublesome weeds in establishing native warm season grasses. It can be difficult to control grassy weeds in desired grasses, so good control prior to planting is essential.

Control in Imazapic Tolerant Native Grasses

The herbicide imazapic (Plateau®, Panoramic®, and others) is useful for the establishment and management of tolerant species such as Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Indiangrass.

This herbicide can be added to the final glyphosate application when planting new stands to provide another mode of action and some residual control of weeds and other grasses. Imazapic can be applied for in-season weed control of undesirable grasses and some broadleaf weeds.

- Application rates range from 4 ounces per acre up to 12 ounces per acre.
- Multiple applications can be made if necessary as long as the total amount of imazapic applied in all applications combined does not exceed 12 ounces of total product per acre per year.
- Growth regulator herbicides (2,4-D, Remedy®, Tordon 22K® and others) are suitable for general broadleaf and brush control.

Growth regulator herbicides may injure small seedlings if applied before they have adequately established.

General Weed Control in Native Grasses

In stands of native warm season grasses that are not tolerant to imazapic (Switchgrass, Eastern Gamagrass, Sideoats Grama) undesirable grass control can be difficult. Make sure to have adequate control of existing perennial and annual grasses that may become future weeds before planting.

Consider using the spray, smother, spray method, or make multiple applications of glyphosate at 1 to 2 quarts per acre if tall fescue is present before planting. Timely prescribed burns can limit invasive cool season grass encroachment in established stands.

Johnsongrass, a perennial warm season grass, is a weed of concern due to competition with desired species during their peak growing season. Control of johnsongrass and some cool season grasses can be achieved with sulfosulfuron (Outrider® and others). For large and established grassy weeds, use the highest labeled rate.

Broadleaf weed control is easily achieved. Growth regulator herbicides (2,4-D, Remedy®, Tordon 22K® and others) are some of the most common products used to control broadleaf weeds.

- **Ragweed**, **cocklebur** and **pigweed** can be controlled with products such as triclopyr (Remedy®), 2,4-D, or a combination of the two products.
- **Sericea lespedeza** and **blackberry species** can be controlled with triclopyr or other products such as metsulfuron (MSM60, Escort, and others).
- Other **woody** and **brushy species** can be controlled with triclopyr or picloram (Tordon 22K and others). Oftentimes woody species can be kept in check with prescribed burns.

Always follow all herbicide label directions and restrictions for use. Not all products may be labeled for your crop or area.

Weed Control in Mixed Stands of Grasses & Forbs

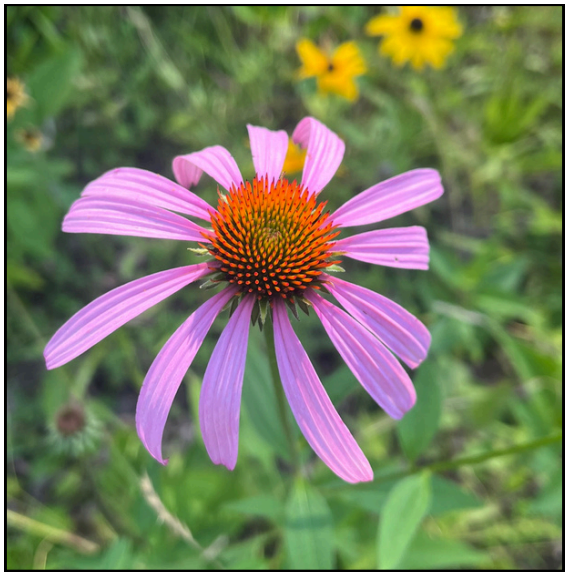
Weed control can be challenging when grasses and forbs are planted together. Broadleaf weed control is often the biggest challenge in mixed plantings. Most herbicides that provide control of broadleaf weeds will also kill desirable forbs. However; there are multiple options to help ensure that your seeding is successful.

- Starting with a clean, weed free planting area is best. It is easier to manage fields with few weeds to start with rather than try to control weeds after planting and emergence of desired species.
- A burn down herbicide application of glyphosate prior to planting is an effective way to reduce initial weed densities.
- Spot sprays of glyphosate are effective on many weed species. In grass dominant plantingsor where loss of forbs can be tolerated, spot sprays of growth regulatorherbicides (2,4-D, Remedy®, Tordon 22K® and others) are effective on broadleaf weeds and brush species.
- Timely mowing can reduce competition in the establishment year and is a valuable tool for reducing brush densities in established stands.
- Imazapic herbicide (Plateau®, Panoramic®, and others) can be applied to tolerant species of grasses and wildflowers. Consider using mixes of tolerant species if additional weed control is anticipated.

Stands of native grasses and forbs have fewer weed problems in subsequent years after planting. Controlled burns can reduce weed and brush encroachment and are a great way to maintain the stand.

COMMON IMAZAPIC TOLERANT WILDFLOWERS:

- Purple Coneflower
- Lanceleaf Coreopsis
- New England Aster
- Purple Prairie Clover
- Blackeyed Susan
- Illinois Bundleflower
- Showy Tick Trefoil
- *Many Others*



Imazapic application can be made at planting to provide establishment weed control.

Some species are tolerant after emergence. Imazapic can be applied during the growing season to control broadleaf weeds and undesirable grasses. Tolerance to imazapic varies by species and the lowest labeled rate should be used to avoid unwanted injury.

Remember, not all grasses and forbs are tolerant of imazapic herbicide. Before application, make sure all species in your planting are tolerant.