

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Cogongrass fall treatment options

What are my fall herbicide control options? There are still two basic herbicide choices for fall cogongrass treatment: glyphosate and imazapyr. For glyphosate herbicides, select a product that has a minimum 41% active ingredient and mix a 4-5% v/v solution. A 4% v/v solution is the equivalent of a 5 fluid ounces per gallon of water. For imazapyr, the amount to mix depends on the formulation. For products containing 2 pounds of active ingredient per gallon, mix a 2% v/v solution (2.5 fluid ounces per gallon of water). For products containing 4 pounds of active ingredient per gallon, mix a 1% v/v solution (1.25 fluid ounces per gallon of water). Remember, imazapyr generally cannot be safely used under or near trees and other desirable vegetation. As a general rule, glyphosate is a better option for most homeowners and landowners while imazapyr will be more useful to professional foresters.

Do I need to add a surfactant to either herbicide? There are many different glyphosate formulations and some of them require the addition of a surfactant while others do not. Read the label. If in doubt, add a non-ionic surfactant at 0.25 to 0.5% v/v (approximately 0.5 fluid ounces per gallon of water). The same issue applies for imazapyr products, so be sure to check the label. Some imazapyr formulations perform slightly better with a methylated seed oil additive at 1% v/v instead of a nonionic surfactant.

How much spray volume do I need for treatment? For spot applications with a backpack sprayer or ATV hand gun sprayer, 30 to 50 gallons per acre works well. This range will provide good coverage and you do not need to spray the foliage until runoff! For broadcast applications with either boom or boomless type sprayers, 20 to 30 gallons per acre works very well. Remember, calibration is still important for both spray methods.

When should I treat? September is the optimal month for treatment but October is also good. As cooler temperatures and the possibility of frost increase in November, we recommend finishing treatments by mid to late October. We do not currently recommend treating after a hard frost.

Can I still control cogongrass in my food plot areas and plant this fall? If you want to spray cogongrass before preparing and planting wildlife food plots, follow these guidelines. Use only a glyphosate product. Do not use imazapyr. Treat as soon as possible and wait at least three weeks before tillage and planting. Be sure to wash off any soil from tillage and planting equipment after working in infested areas. A single glyphosate treatment will not completely kill all rhizomes so do not carelessly spread them to uninfested food plots!

With a single fall treatment this year, am I done? Not in most cases. With glyphosate, you will likely see very good cogongrass control in the spring and into the summer, but it will eventually regrow from living rhizomes that were not killed. Be ready to retreat any regrowth by July. Do not wait until fall to retreat! With imazapyr

you could see complete control for the entire following year, but be sure to monitor the site two years for regrowth.