

# Introduced Grass Eradication

Control of Invasive Grasses (Bermudagrass, fescue, etc.)



## Description:

Non-native (introduced) grasses like Bermudagrass, fescue, orchardgrass offer little wildlife habitat value and can be difficult to eradicate. Some grasses like Bermudagrass are especially difficult to control with just one spraying. It is recommended that eradication of non-native grasses start one year in advance of cover type conversions (example: fescue conversion to native grasses).

## Benefits:

- Increases wildlife habitat value
- Increases plant diversity
- Promotes natural plant communities
- Control of non-native plants
- Promotes diversity of wildlife species

## Site Preparation:

Grassy fields that are scheduled to be sprayed should always be prepared by either prescribed burning, haying, or mowing to stimulate new vigorous growth before applying herbicides. Most fields and grasses should be sprayed on calm (little to no wind), sunny, warm days when grasses are actively growing. Prescribed burning and haying are more efficient techniques to remove the old thatch and stimulate regrowth, allowing for more direct contact of herbicide on grass. If mowing is used, it is imperative to mow several weeks in advance to allow mowed material to break down, so herbicide can penetrate dead material and reach new grassy growth. Spraying too soon after mowing will result in only partial control, and ultimately lead to reinvasion of introduced grasses.

## Recommended Rates & Herbicides:

### **Fescue & Other Cool Season Grasses: (Spray when 6-10 inches in height)**

*Option 1: Glyphosate: 1.5 – 2 qts/acre – Fall (Actively growing) – PREFERRED OPTION*

*Option 2: Glyphosate: 2 qts/acre – Spring (Actively growing) - could possibly require multiple applications*

*Option 3: Perform both Option 1 and Option 2 for maximum control*

**Bermudagrass: (Spray when less than 6 inches in height)**

*Option 1: Imazapyr: 24 oz./acre (53% active ingredient) with 2 pints MSO\* – Summer (Actively growing)*

\*MSO – Methylated Seed Oil or Crop Oil Concentrates are vegetable/petroleum based oils that will help with the absorption of herbicides into the plant.

*Option 2: Glyphosate: 2-5 qts/acre – (Actively growing)-could possibly require multiple applications. Glyphosate resistant crops could help with eradication if applied one to two years prior to planting.*

**Johnsongrass: (Spray when 18-24 inches in height)**

*Option 1: Imazapic: 6-8 oz/acre*

**Johnsongrass and Crabgrass:**

*Option 1: Imazapic: 6-8 oz/acre*

*Option 2: Glyphosate: 2 qts/acre – Spring (Actively growing)-could possibly require multiple applications*

*Option 3: Clethodim: 10-12 oz/acre - with 2 pints MSO\* – Summer (Actively growing)*

**Use of Surfactants:**

*Surfactants aid the herbicides to adhere to the plant surface and increase the effectiveness of the application. Please read product label to determine if a surfactant is required for your spraying.*

*Note: These recommendations are not for maintenance of existing native grass stands but are for site preparation or conditioning prior to establishment of native vegetation.*

*For further information and specifications please see U.T. Extension Publication PB1752, “Native Warm-Season Grasses: Identification, Establishment and Management for Wildlife and Forage Production in the Mid-South” and U.T. Extension Publication SP731-B, “Establishing Native Warm-season Grasses for Livestock Forage in the Mid-South”.*