

PastureGard for IPT Redberry Cedar Control

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SUMMARY

A small plot herbicide trial was established during the summer of 2001 on the Rocker B Ranch in Irion county to evaluate a new herbicide (PastureGard) for control of redberry juniper. This herbicide is a 3:1 mixture of Triclopyr and Fluroxypyr. Two rates of PastureGard were applied as individual plant leaf sprays. Two years post-treatment, both leaf spray rates of PastureGard provided no control of redberry juniper.

PROBLEM/INTRODUCTION

Within Texas, redberry cedar is a serious problem on approximately 12 million acres in the Edwards Plateau and Rolling Plains. Increases in juniper degrade wildlife habitat, reduce plant and animal diversity, increase soil erosion and alters the hydrological properties of most invaded communities.

Unfortunately, control is often postponed until the size and density of cedar requires the use of expensive mechanical methods. It is often more sound ecologically and economically to control cedar before plants reach the size and density requiring large horsepower mechanical treatments. This can often be effectively accomplished using individual plant treatments.

Two of the most popular and effective individual plant treatments for cedar are promoted in the Brush Busters "*How to Master Cedar*" program. One of the treatments is a soil spot spray utilizing the herbicide Velpar L at a rate of 2 ml for every 3 feet of canopy height or diameter, whichever is greater. The other treatment is a leaf spray that uses a 1% concentration of the herbicide Tordon 22K. A new herbicide called PastureGard may provide an additional control option for redberry juniper when used as a leaf spray.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this herbicide trials is to:

Document efficacy of PastureGard when applied as a individual plant leafspray to redberry juniper.

MATERIALS/METHODS

Following is a description of the treatments included:

Leaf Spray. The leaf sprays included a mix containing 1/2% and 1% concentrations of PastureGard. The leaf spray was applied using water as the primary carrier. Surfactant was added at a concentration of 0.25% to the spray mixture. Finally, Hi-Light blue dye was added to the spray mix (1/3 oz/gallon spray) as a marker of sprayed trees.

The spray mix was applied to the foliage of individual cedar plants using a sprayer mounted on a 4-wheel ATV. All spray wands were tipped with 5500-X8 adjustable cone nozzles. The foliage of each cedar plant was sprayed until the point of runoff.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION/ECONOMIC IMPACT

Two years following treatment, neither rate of PastureGard controlled redberry juniper. Apparent mortality for both concentrations was rated as 0%.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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