

IPT Yucca Control

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Allan McGinty
Extension Range Specialist
San Angelo, Texas

SUMMARY

A herbicide trial was established in Schliecher county during the summer of 2001, to compare efficacy of several potential individual plant treatments for control of yucca. These treatments included Remedy applied undiluted into the whorl of each plant, at rates of 2, 3 and 4 cc/plant; and a mixture of Remedy and diesel (15% + 85%, respectively), as a timed 2 second spray into the whorl of the plant using a Conejet 5500-X1 nozzle.

Two years following application, the treatments provided 62% to 97% control. Greatest control was obtained with Remedy applied undiluted at a rate of 2 cc/whorl.

PROBLEM/INTRODUCTION

Yucca, also called beargrass or Spanish-bayonet, is a noxious plant that occurs on over 19 million acres of Texas rangeland. This plant is most common in the western two-thirds of the state. Yucca can reach high enough densities as to compete with more desirable vegetation for water and nutrients. There are no broadcast chemical control options for this plant. The only individual plant treatment recommended by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is a high-volume spray containing 2% Remedy in diesel fuel oil or in a 1:5 diesel fuel oil:water emulsion. A large volume sprayer is required for this treatment.

In the past few years, a promising treatment for yucca has been identified by New Mexico State University. They have obtained excellent results using Remedy, undiluted, applied to the center whorl of the plant. Rates have ranged from 2 to 4 cc/plant. Remedy mixed with diesel (15%) applied to the whorl, and the herbicide Velpar L, applied undiluted as a soil spot spray are also potential treatments for this plant. Presently there is insufficient data in Texas documenting efficacy of these treatments to make recommendations concerning their use.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of these demonstrations are to:

Document efficacy of individual plant treatment options for control of yucca on rangeland.

MATERIALS/METHODS

Yucca at each site received the following treatments.

Remedy Whorl Treatment (undiluted) Remedy was applied undiluted to the center whorl of each individual yucca plant. Rates applied were 2, 3 and 4 cc/plant. Application was made with an automatic syringe attached to a sheep drench bladder.

Remedy Whorl Treatment (15% Remedy + 85% diesel) Remedy was mixed with diesel (15% and 85%, respectively) and the spray mix applied to the center whorl of individual yucca plants. Application was made using a backpack sprayer and a Conejet 5500-X1 nozzle. Each whorl received a 2 second timed spray.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION/ECONOMIC IMPACT

The following table shows percent control of yucca two years following treatment.

| Treatment | Rate | Cost | Percent Control |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Remedy + diesel | 15% + 85% | 2.0 cent/whorl | 62% |
| Remedy | 2 cc/whorl | 4.3 cents/whorl | 97% |
| Remedy | 3 cc/whorl | 6.5 cents/whorl | 75% |
| Remedy | 4 cc/whorl | 8.6 cents/whorl | 83% |

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