



Weed Control Demonstration

Luke Jones Ranch 2002

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Summary:

The herbicides 2,4-D amine, Ally[®] and Weedmaster[®] were applied on April 5, 2002 to rangeland on the Luke Jones Ranch. By the end of the growing season, forage standing crop in treated areas ranged from 1240 lbs/ac to 2200 lbs/ac, while forage standing crop in the non-treated area was 592 lbs/ac.

Broadleaf plants, or weeds, may be desirable or undesirable depending on the rancher's objective. Some weeds are valuable forage for sheep, goats and wildlife. However, weeds can reach densities that significantly reduce production of perennial grasses. Some broadleaf weeds are toxic to livestock. A successful weed control program requires owners/managers to know their plants, select appropriate control methods when needed and apply these methods at appropriate rates and at the proper time using well maintained equipment. A cornerstone to satisfactory results is early identification of weed problems and prompt, accurate treatment.

Objective:

The objective of this demonstration is to document costs and forage response following use of several herbicides for general weed control.

Materials and Methods:

This demonstration was established on April 5, 2002 on the Luke Jones Ranch in Lampasas County. A 4-wheel ATV equipped with a "Boomjet" nozzle was used to apply 3 herbicide treatments for weed control. These treatments included 2, 4-D amine at a rate of 1 qt/ac, Weedmaster[®] at 1 qt/ac and Ally[®] at 0.3 oz/ac. All herbicides were mixed with water. Surfactant was added at a concentration of 0.25% to the spray mixture. Herbicides were applied at a total volume of 9.0 gpa.

Results and Discussion:

The following table shows cost and end of season forage standing crop for each treatment. The least expensive treatment (2,4-D) provided the greatest forage response.

Herbicide	Rate	Cost/Ac	Standing Crop
2,4-D amine	1 qt/ac	\$4.50	2200 lbs/ac
Weedmaster [®]	1 qt/ac	\$6.50/ac	1260 lbs/ac
Ally [®]	0.3 oz/ac	\$5.10/ac	1240 lbs/ac
Control			592 lbs/ac

Acknowledgments:

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Trade names of commercial products used in this report are included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.