

# Common Ragweed



# Redroot Pigweed



- Perennial weeds can be difficult to control, since they survive for multiple years and reproduce from seeds or underground roots or stems (rhizomes).
- Roots and rhizomes are often unaffected by grazing or mowing
- The best time to control perennials is generally late summer when the plants are moving food reserves from their leaves to their roots.
- Some perennial weeds, such as horsenettle, can be effectively controlled when flowering.

# Milkweed



# Horsenettle





# Buttercup



# Buckhorn Plantain



# Mechanical Control

Mowing can effectively reduce weed populations

- Mow (2-4 x/yr.)
- Can prevent weed seed production
- Reduces carbohydrate reserves in perennial species
- May be sufficient for annual weed control
- Expensive, uses fuel, and time consuming





# Chemical Control

If weeds become a problem in pastures, herbicide options are available.

- Pasture herbicides are applied as liquids to weed leaf surfaces. A sprayer is necessary. Backpack sprayers can be used to spot treat weeds in pastures.
- Broadleaf weed herbicides will eliminate existing clover and alfalfa plants as well as weeds.

# Chemical Control

- **Thin stands of pasture grasses do not always thicken once weeds are removed**
- **Be sure there are sufficient desirable species to fill in gaps or overseed**
- **Weeds tolerant of herbicides may invade space left by killed species, ultimately creating a more severe weed problem**

- **Select products labeled for pasture use. (Lawn care “weed and feed” products are not labeled for use on pastures.)**
- **Adhere to all precautions and restrictions (grazing, haying, reseeding) on the pesticide label.**
- **Be sure the product is effective at killing the weeds in the pasture.**
- **Use at the correct rate and time**

# Effect of Herbicides on Selected Pasture Weeds

Weed	2,4-D	Clarity	2,4-D + Clarity	Cimarron Plus	Crossbow	Milestone	Roundup
Milkweed	6	8	8+	N	7+	N	7+
Poison hemlock	7	8	9	N	9		9
Pokeweed	7	7	7		9	8	8
E. Blk nightshade	7+	8+	8+	8	8+		9
Horsenettle	7	8	9	9+	8+	9	8
Jimsonweed	8	9+	9+	9+	9	8	9
Buttercup	8+	8	9	9+	9	8	9
Lambsquarters	9	9+	9+	9+	9+	9	9
Pigweed	9	9	9+	9+	9	8	9
Ragweed	9	9	9+	7	9+	9	9+
White snakeroot	8	9	9	N	9		8
Plantain species	9	8	9+	9	9	N	9
Smooth bedstraw	7	N	7	N	8+	9	9
Canada thistle	8	8	8+	8+	8	9+	8
Multiflora rose	6	6	7+	8+	8+	7+	8

\*Weed control ratings: 10 = 95-100%, 9 = 85-95%, 8 = 75-85%, 7 = 65-75, 6 = 55-65%, N = no control

# Milestone and ForeFront:

## Manure and Plant Residue Issues

- These products provide good weed control in pastures.
- They have no grazing restrictions for horses.
- However, if pastures are sprayed with either Milestone or ForeFront, manure or grass clippings should not be used as compost or mulch on gardens where it could kill sensitive broadleaf crops.
- It is best to put the manure back onto the pasture.



[manurematters.com](http://manurematters.com)

Other fact sheets available too

# Forage Species Selection for Horses



# Factors to Consider When Choosing a Forage Species

## 1. Are Soils ?

- ✓ Deep
- ✓ Well drained
- ✓ Poorly drained
- ✓ Droughty



2. What is the stocking rate of the farm?
3. What management practices are utilized ?
4. What practices are the managers willing to adopt?





## 5. What are the goals for the pasture?

- ✓ Primarily turn-out and exercise or
- ✓ Nutrition as well as exercise



# Goal is Nutrition and Exercise

- ✓ Low stocking rate and/or good management practices ...
- ✓ Use higher yielding species such as orchard grass, forage fescue, and brome in addition to some bluegrass and clover.



# Goal is Primarily Exercise

- ✓ High stocking rate and rest and rotation of paddocks is minimal ...
- ✓ Choose forage species that can “better” handle heavy grazing and traffic such as endophyte-free tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass/white clover.

