Redroot Pigweed

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• 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

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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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed</th>
<th>2,4-D</th>
<th>Clarity</th>
<th>2,4-D + Clarity</th>
<th>Cimarron Plus</th>
<th>Crossbow</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Roundup</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milkweed</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8+</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7+</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>7+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poison hemlock</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>Pokeweed</td>
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<td>Horsenettle</td>
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</table>

*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
Other fact sheets available too

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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.