Herbaceous Weed Control (Spot Treatment)

Where Applicable:

This practice is used primarily as a method of chemical control for herbaceous weeds and grasses in areas recently planted with pine seedlings. Applications are generally made on improved and unimproved pastures, old fields, cutover areas, and prepared sites where partial coverage with the chemical is desired.

Description:

Spot applications of herbaceous weed control are accomplished through the use of a backpack or ATV-mounted sprayer pressurized with air. Herbicides are site specific. Each one is best suited for a particular purpose on a given site. Factors influencing suitability of an herbicide are: type of vegetation to be controlled, species of tree to be over-sprayed, soil type, time of year, proximity to water bodies, age of seedlings to overspray, sensitivity of surrounding areas to damage from herbicides, and cost. After selecting the proper chemical or mixture for control of the dominant undesirable species present, the vendor will spray herbicide around each seedling. Each chemical application “spot” should be a minimum of approximately 18-24” in diameter. The treatment area should be spot sprayed during the early periods of active growth (Feb-May) for herbaceous weeds and grasses using soil active and/or foliar active chemicals depending on the growth stage of targeted species. It is a violation of Federal Law to use these products in a manner inconsistent with their labeling (see specimen labels for general information, directions for use, precautionary statements, handling, mixing and application instructions, disposal of chemicals and containers, etc.).

Benefits:

Herbicide application is extremely beneficial to young pines by eliminating competing weeds and grasses within the same growing zone. Eliminating these shallow rooted species increases the amount of available moisture, nutrients, and sunlight for newly planted seedlings. This helps to promote seedling growth and improve overall survival during the first three critical years of establishment. Competition control results in more rapid growth producing larger timber yields and shorter rotations for landowners. Spot treatment is especially useful on smaller acreages, or where aerial or skidder operations are not feasible. This practice focuses on vegetation in the immediate area of young seedlings leaving untreated areas for soil stabilization, wildlife forage, cover, habitat, etc.

Other Recommendations:

Best results are obtained when the application is made during the early stages of active weed growth (February-mid May) before an established root system is developed however, each herbicide may vary as to the best time of year to apply. Generally avoid spraying when rainfall is expected within 6 hours. Do not spray when seedlings are under stress. For most herbicides, evidence of yellowing, wilting and dying should be apparent within three weeks under normal rainfall conditions. It is recommended that you have a contract with the vendor and a guarantee on the chemicals used should the application be ineffective in controlling the targeted species. All applicable Texas Forestry Best Management Practices for silvicultural chemicals should be followed.

Cost:

Approximately $40-$65/acre depending on tract size, vegetative cover, availability of vendors, chemical costs, application rates, etc.

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