
Small Acreage Weed Management Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

- 1. Do I need to hydra-mulch burn areas?** As a rule, no. Grasses evolved under fire and are adapted to it. With the spring warmup, you will quickly see the green spears of grass starting to emerge, covering and protecting the soil surface. Early cool season grasses will emerge first, as warm season natives appear later in the year during late April/May/June.
- 2. Can Weeds be worse after fire?** Yes, there can be an increase in weeds if the fire reduced competition and removed more desirable plants from within a given area. This generally occurs more often with summertime wildfires but can happen with fire in general. Usually treating or removal of invasive plants allows the site to recover with more desirable vegetation
- 3. What about weeds?** With the thatch layer burned off, weeds can be very visible, and easy to treat. Manual digging of Musk and Scotch Thistle rosettes and Myrtle Spurge is very effective. Also, with the thatch layer removed it is easier to spot spray herbicides and target/treat weeds.

Example: (Just some common weeds, not a complete list)

Herbicide Needed	Manual Control (Pulling and Digging)
Canada Thistle	Scotch and Musk Thistle (small populations)
White Top or Hoary Cress	Myrtle Spurge
Mustard species	Knapweeds (small populations)
Common Teasel	

- 4. Are there people I can hire to help control my weeds?** Yes, CSU Extension Services located in Longmont maintains a list of qualified applicators, or a search online can quickly locate qualified professionals to help you. When interviewing applicators provide them with information on your application site, (i.e. Front yard; Un-managed open areas on your property; grazed pastures, etc.). If you know what types of weeds you want controlled, provide that information as well. We would strongly recommend you review your site with them so they can explain their process/methods and what herbicides they would use and their cost, before you contract with them.
- 5. Can I control my own weeds?** Yes, you can. It requires an understanding of herbicides and what invasive plants they control, as well as mixing and applying herbicides appropriately. However, missteps can cause damage to healthy plants you want to keep. Always **READ THE LABEL** and apply herbicides according to that label. Studies show most herbicide damage to non-targeted plants is due to applicator error. **Be extra careful around trees**, some herbicides like Milestone can injure legume trees like Honey Locust, Black Locust, and Catalpa trees.
- 6. How do I help reduce the risk of summertime wildfires on my property?** For homeowners of small acreage properties (5-20 acres) establishing a mow line around the perimeter of the pastures or out lots, can remove fuel that can feed fire. This will also help establish a defensible fire lines to help control advancing wildfire. Cheatgrass or Downy Brome is commonly found throughout the front range. Cheatgrass matures in the summer leaving a thick thatch layer of fine fuels which feeds and intensifies summertime wildfires. There is an herbicide available that can provide long-term control of these grasses and restore your native areas. For more information contact CSU Extension Services, Boulder County, Longmont, Colorado.

If you would like further information, please contact:

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