Weed Control Demonstration

Luke Jones Ranch 2003

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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.

PROBLEM/INTRODUCTION

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.

OBJECTIVES

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

MATERIALS/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/DISCUSSION/ECONOMIC IMPACT

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

The authors wish to express appreciation to the Luke Jones Ranch which served as cooperator for the demonstration.
