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Cut Stump Treatments for Brush Control

Foliar treatments of brush species this time of year could best be described as variable. As woody species shut down, leaves stop translocating herbicides and efficacy declines. Last week's column (found under the Crops & Soils link at www.meadowlark.ksu.edu if you missed it!) discussed basal bark treatments that can allow us another option for brush control. Unfortunately, it works best on trees that are only four to six inches in diameter. What about the larger ones?

Larger trees can be controlled with foliar applications, but the amount of product and coverage you'd need to do a good job is pretty high. Instead, as trees past the six inch diameter mark, consider cutting them off and then treating the cut area (for all species but Eastern redcedar!) with an approved herbicide.

The KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide lists multiple cut stump treatments, but triclopyr containing products tend to be the most broad spectrum. Dicamba might have a place for cottonwood, elm, or oak species, but to get many of our more common species, a product containing triclopyr is going to be the most available. Triclopyr is found in Remedy Ultra, Pathfinder II and PastureGard HL. While Pathfinder II is a ready to use product, Remedy Ultra and PastureGard HL will require mixing with 20-30% diesel fuel. Always read and follow label guidelines! Milestone contains the active ingredient aminopyralid and is effective on black and common honeylocust in a one to five percent solution with a compatible basal oil. Be sure the cut surface is treated within 30-60 minutes, before the sap seals over the exposed area. Spray the cambium and light-colored sapwood to insure translocation of the herbicide. Treat any exposed trunk or exposed roots.

For specific instructions, request a copy of the 2016 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide online at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/SRP1126.pdf> or from your District Office.