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## Invasive Brush Species – Roughleaf Dogwood

Sometimes reaching a height of almost 15 feet in height, Roughleaf dogwood is very well adapted to almost any of our grazing season environments. It is often found in clusters along fence rows and stream edges as well as open grazing areas, and once established, it can be very difficult to stay ahead of. It is identifiable by its flat-topped clusters of white flowers usually seen starting in late May/early June.

Roughleaf dogwood typically isn't found in regularly burned warm-season grass pastures. In cool-season pastures, or less frequently burned warm-season stands, the plant's tendency to leaf out after the optimum burn window limits the ability of fire to control it. Once it takes hold, only multi-year late spring burns will reduce stands.

Chemical control is an option, but a multi-year program is required. Foliar applications should be made between the flower bud state and early seed production. Many of our more common single product treatments (triclopyr, picloram, dicamba, etc...) seldom result in greater than 25 percent mortality rates. Even high volume multi-product treatments may only provide 50 percent control. For best results, consider products like PastureGard HL (triclopyr + fluroxypyr), Surmount (picloram + fluroxypyr), or even a combination of Grazon P+D and Remedy Ultra, all applied with water and a non-ionic surfactant when possible. As with the buckbrush control recommendations (<https://bit.ly/2YnZ6TP>) last week, remember that application timing is important. Picloram is a restricted use pesticide and requires a Private Pesticide Applicator's License to purchase/apply. Additional product information can be found in the 2020 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide available from your District Office or at <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/SRP1155.pdf>. Always read and follow label directions.

## Spring Lawn Care – Pay Attention to Mowing Height

There are lots of things we can do to make our lawn healthier. We fertilize. We apply weed killer. Often overlooked, however, is the importance of mowing height.

Most of our turf grass species are cool-season in nature - predominantly fescue and bluegrass. These cool-season species have an erect growth habit and tolerate low mowing less favorably than warm-season species. Hot weather is more stressful to cool-season grasses than warm-season grasses, too. That means that not only is our base mowing height important, but our mowing height should be adjusted through the season to help insulate the ground against heat, increase the turf's food-producing area, and encourages roots to penetrate more deeply into the soil. Mow too low, and you increase stress on the turf, which can require additional watering. Done too often, you'll end up with thin, weak turf more susceptible to weeds.

A good mowing height for cool-season turf lawns is two and a half to three inches. Mowing at the lower end of the height range might be okay now, but plan to raise deck height as warmer weather arrives. A good rule of thumb is to never remove more than one-third of the height of the turf at one time. To attain a three-inch mowing height, that means mowing when the grass reaches no more than four and a half inches.