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### **Brush Control Season Begins: Buckbrush**

While it *can* grow to over six feet tall, buckbrush seldom reaches more than three to four feet tall in pastures. That shorter stature plus the fact it's one of the first brush species to get going in spring can catch us off guard, and before we know it, we're past its optimum control window. That window is open now, providing a control opportunity for this species and its aggressive creeping underground root system before it gets any further ahead of us.

Herbicide options include products containing 2,4-D or 2,4-D plus aminopyralid or picloram (restricted use). Timing is important. Application should be made after plants are fully leafed out, but before leaves get too mature and form a waxy cuticle as they turn from a lighter to a darker green shade. While it might be tempting to wait until other species enter their optimum control window for one pass control, herbicide efficacy can be compromised if plants get too well established. Multiple herbicide applications will likely be required.

An integrated approach can be of longer-term value with options including livestock, prescribed fire, and mowing. Goats are preferred over cattle. Prescribed fire in warm season grass stands can have some value - if we can burn for two to three consecutive years - but are more difficult in cool season stands. A single mowing may only encourage resprouting, with multiple mowing passes required to make a dent in the stand. Removal of root systems (newly established plants are relatively easy to pull out) might be an option if stands are small.

The bottom line: buckbrush isn't likely controlled with one pass - mower, herbicide, etc... - and requires an integrated approach over time. Early spring will be our best opportunity for control this season and this species deserves attention sooner than later. For specific herbicide recommendations, pick up a copy of the *2026 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide* from any District Office or online at [https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/2026-chemical-weed-control-for-field-crops-pastures-rangeland-and-noncropland\\_CHEMWEEDGUIDE](https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/2026-chemical-weed-control-for-field-crops-pastures-rangeland-and-noncropland_CHEMWEEDGUIDE) . When applying herbicides, always read and follow label directions.