KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
Meadowlark District

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David Hallauer
District Extension Agent, Crops & Soils

Roughleaf Dogwood Control

One of the increasingly troublesome brush species we see in our grasslands is roughleaf dogwood. Unlike buckbrush which seldom reaches six feet in height, roughleaf dogwood is often much taller and when it gets thick, can choke out forages underneath it almost completely.

The optimum spray window for control of Roughleaf dogwood is between the flower bud state and early seed production stages. For many stands, that window is open right now.

If your herbicide performance expectation is 100 percent mortality – think again with this species. Control is difficult and multiple applications will likely be required. Single active ingredient products containing triclopyr, dicamba, and picloram (alone or with 2,4-D) often defoliate it, but mortality is usually less than 25% and resprouting is common. High volume spot treatments with multiple active ingredient products (triclopyr plus fluroxypyr, picloram plus 2,4-D plus triclopyr, etc…) will likely be better but may still require additional applications. A non-ionic surfactant added to herbicides can help. Any time roughleaf dogwood has been previously defoliated and in a weakened state (following a prescribed burn, etc…), control may be increased as well. Still, it's persistent and not a species that goes away easily.

For more control options, request a copy of the *2026 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide* via any District Office or online at: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/2026-chemical-weed-control-for-field-crops-pastures-rangeland-and-noncropland_CHEMWEEDGUIDE . When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions.