

Pasture weed control update

Smutgrass and Slender aster

Josh Davy

Livestock and Range Advisor – Tehama, Glenn, Colusa

Betsy Karle

Dairy Program – Tehama, Glenn

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS



Smutgrass NDF is 60% to 70% and CP is 5% to 10%
Premium alfalfa is <36% NDF

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

Rotary wiper tips

- Glyphosate is the most effective herbicide in the wiper
- To use glyphosate Desirable grass needs to be grazed below wiper level
- Rate needs to be 50-70% with a rotary wiper compared to 2% with a sprayer
- Best done in mid summer – increase rate if later
- Units are expensive >\$3,000
- They are available for rent for \$50 a day, \$75 a weekend, \$150 a week
Tehama County RCD 530-527-3013
- If it is not possible to graze the grass down you can use 2,4-D instead of glyphosate to control slender aster (not smutgrass)

Selective (broadleaf only) chemical control of slender aster

2,4-D at 2 pints per acre worked the best at controlling slender aster and did not affect the white clover.

2,4-D at 4 pints/acre hurt clover so rate is important

Bucril at 1 pint/acre was a close second, because it had a slight effect on clover

All herbicides except 'Overdrive' worked on slender aster but caused some clover damage



Chemical and associated herbicide name

Chemical name	Herbicide name
Triclopyr	Garlon 3A
2,4-D	Weedar 64
2,4-D + Triclopyr	Crossbow
Dicamba + 2,4-d	RangeStar
Bromoxynil	Bucril
Dicamba + diflufenzopyr	Overdrive

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Final thoughts

- Slender aster is an annual that must reseed itself for the next year. Well timed mowing can help lower the population
- Slender aster likes heavy ground or ground with poor drainage. This often occurs in winter. Is that a problem to solve first?
- Smutgrass is a perennial and withstands mowing well. In most cases mowing low increases palatability, but does little for control
- Individual smutgrass plants can produce up to 45,000 seeds per year
- The outside of smutgrass seeds are covered with a gelatinous mucilage that becomes sticky when moistened. This allows seeds to cling to bird feathers or animal hair.

Questions?

Josh Davy

530-527-3101

jdavy@ucdavis.edu

Betsy Karle

530-865-1107

bmkarle@ucdavis.edu

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS