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Thomas N. Johnsen, Jr.

CREOSOTEBUSH (Larrea tridentata [DC.] Coville)

Description and Occurrence

Creosotebush, a member of the caltrops family, is a common evergreen shrub, usually 3 to 6 feet tall. It occurs on an estimated 46½ million acres in the arid Southwest from California to western Texas. It spreads from seed. This plant is worthless for browsing. Desirable perennial grasses cannot compete with creosotebush. After creosotebush becomes established on a site, it can gain dominance rather rapidly. When this occurs, the entire site deteriorates from wind and water erosion.

Chemicals

(TCA) granules, fenuron-TCA granules, and trichloro-

Individual plant treatment with fenuron pellets have consistently given plant kills in excess of 90 percent. Monuron powder, monuron-trichloroacetate benzoic acid granules have been less effective.

Rate

An effective rate is an individual plant treatment of 1 gram active ingredient of 25 percent fenuron pellets (1 level teaspoon = 1 gram active ingredient) for each 1½ feet of canopy diameter. The pellets should be scattered around the base of the plant.

Time of Application

Since fenuron is desensitized by light and high temperatures, it is important that the materials be applied just prior to, or in the early part of, an expected rainy season.

General Considerations

This is an economical method of controlling sparse stands (up to 75 plants per acre) of creosotebush. It would be especially beneficial where creosotebush is invading grassland. The work reported was done on gravelly sandy loams in southern New Mexico.

Carlton H. Herbel

COMMON GALLBERRY (Ilex glabra [L.] Gray)

Description and Occurrence

Common gallberry, a member of the holly family, is an evergreen shrub, usually 2 to 5 feet tall, that occurs frequently in low pinelands, swamps, and prairies near the coast from Louisiana to Massachusetts. It spreads by both seed and rhizomes and is most abundant in southern Georgia and in Florida.

Chemicals for Control

Foliage spray of a low-volatile ester of 2,4,5-T was effective in studies by Burton and Hughes (*1*) and Smith (*2*).

Smith (*2*) got excellent kills with 2,4,5-T in oil sprayed on stems and rootcollars and on stumps, but the costs were greater than spraying foliage with the chemical in water.

Rate, Volume, and Carrier

Two pounds acid equivalent in 50 gallons of water or oil per acre was sufficient for foliage sprays in Georgia (*1*). Water is the preferred carrier in the summer, but oil is more effective for fall sprayings. In Mississippi, 4 lb. acid equivalent in 19 gallons of diesel fuel was very effective when sprayed in August on stems and rootcollars, but more than 55 gallons of spray was required per acre (*2*).

Time of Application

For foliage sprays, August is best with water as the carrier, and November is best with oil as the carrier. Stem and rootcollar and stump treatments are effective in August. Applications in other months have not been tried.