



This is a grove of sweet gum and persimmon near Conway, Arkansas. It's so thick you can hardly walk through it, yet control is nearly 100 percent.



Here's a spray crew on the job out where the big firs grow—the Pacific Northwest. Spraymen are applying Banvel to rid area of smaller trees so that Douglas fir can be replanted.

Victorious War On Brush

Brush species that have been resistant to previously used herbicides for brush are now succumbing to a relatively new brush control chemical called Banvel.

Produced by Velsicol Chemical Corporation, the product until recently was oriented mainly to agriculture. Within the last two-three years, potential for control of hard-to-kill brush species has developed fast.

"We haven't really found a specie on which Banvel, has not shown activity," says Don Telge, a railroad vegetation control specialist for Velsicol. "In some areas of the country, though, some users find that red maple is a specie that should be watched, in that Banvel sometimes controls it, sometimes not."

It's the difficult species to control, such as ash, hickory and persimmon, where Banvel's results show up most dramatically. Around Oklahoma, blackjack oak is one of the toughest species to control, because of its large root system and hard and waxy leaves. In Alabama, sassafras accounts for an estimated 40 percent of the brush not controlled by other chemicals. In Texas, Louisiana and Alabama, there is a
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Jack Woods of Public Service Utility, Tulsa, Oklahoma, examines a dead winged elm.



This willow is 35 feet tall. It's dead and so are the vines surrounding it. Banvel controls brush a long time after application. The chemical becomes part of the cell structure.

WAR ON BRUSH (from page 24)

bad problem with persimmon. Banvel has given excellent control of all these species.

Users report that brush kill takes place a long time after application of Banvel.

"It seems to accumulate in the plant tissue," commented Richard Fields, manager of Velsicol's industrial vegetation control department and a Banvel expert. "It becomes part of the cell structure. Although we don't have a complete explanation of the phenomenon, that must be one reason why Banvel has a slower reaction to brush than what professional applicators are accustomed to. They are used to spraying one year and evaluating the next. But with Banvel, sometimes after one year, the whole tree is in bud."

Banvel enter the plant not only through the leaves and the bark, but through the roots as well. Applicators and researchers report that the chemical translocates from the roots throughout the plant. Sprays to the bark area and surrounding foliage enhance the product's activity. Basal stem applications may be made during dormancy. Root absorption is the key.

"Under normal conditions, the



A Potomac Edison line near Winchester, Virginia, one of the first areas where extensive experimental tests were carried out with Banvel. Note the near perfect brush control under the direction of Mike Watson, Potomac Edison forester.

rates used for brush control biodegrade in the soil in a matter of a few months," notes Fields.

The slower action of Banvel can be an advantage in reducing the number of complaints about the use of chemicals, where sudden "brown out" of vegetation during the spring and summer can alarm the public.

Some states, such as Maine, have made applications along highways and other highly visible rights-of-way.

Current Federal registrations include applications to watershed areas, drainage ditches, dam sites and other areas where wildlife and cattle inhabit.

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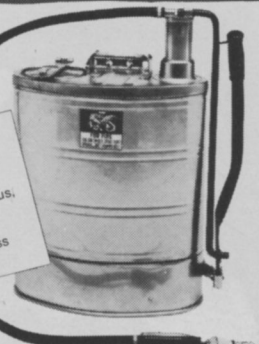
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