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Lebanon

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PROBLEM MANAGEMENT

by Balakrishna Rao, Ph.D.

Preventing weed growth

Problem: Can you suggest any method which would control growth before germination in a large bed of wood chips (without damage to large locust trees)? (New York)

Solution: To manage weed (annual or perennial) growth before germination in wood chip beds, apply pre-emergence herbicides in the fall or early winter and again in the spring or summer as needed. For annual weeds, apply Princep in fall at 3 lbs. active ingredient (AI) per acre. This treatment will provide weed control until late spring or early summer at which time another pre-emergence herbicide application should be provided.

Other pre-emergence herbicides, such as Ronstar, Dacthal, Devrinol, Dual, Enid, Lasso or Surflan, can be used alone or in combination with 1 lb. of Princep in summer. These combination treatments will increase the residual activity period as well as provide control of a wider spectrum of weeds. If the Princep was used at 3 lbs. AI per acre rate in fall or winter, do not use 2-3 lbs. AI per acre of that material again in spring or summer. However, if Princep was not used in fall or winter, then it can be used at the 3 lbs. AI per acre rate in spring or summer.

Rangeland herbicides

Problem: Is there a herbicide for rangeland that would control big and little sage brush (greasewood)? (Canada)

Solution: In reviewing the literature, no specific recommendations for sage brush control were found. Sage brush along with mugwort (*chrysanthemum* weed) and wormwood belong to the same genus *Artemisia* (Compositae). Most of these are aromatic herbaceous plants growing in dry areas in the northern hemisphere. Since both mugwort and wormwood can be managed by the application of a pre-emergence herbicide like Dacthal, it is probable that sage brush also can be managed by the same chemical.

In addition, mugwort can be managed by the use of post-emergence herbicides, like Casoron or Eptam. These need to be incorporated into the soil. These post-emergents also may be active on sage brush. Since we were unable to find any recommendation for sage brush control, check with the Canada Department of Agriculture or Ministry of Agriculture to learn more about the activity and feasibility of using the above-mentioned products. Read and follow label specifications for best results. **LM**



Balakrishna Rao is Director of Lawn Care Technical Resources for The Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.

Questions should be mailed to Problem Management, Landscape Management, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.

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