Privet Control (Chinese, European, Japanese)

Privets are shade-tolerant, tall shrubs or small trees growing to about 30 feet or taller. These plants are aggressive and troublesome when located outside landscaped areas. They often form dense thickets in bottomland forests, fencerows, rights-of-way, forest edges, etc. Because privet grows in thick, bushy clusters, it can be particularly troublesome and destructive to fence lines. Privet colonizes by root-sprouting and abundant seed production and is widely spread by birds and animals.

Chinese and European privet are difficult to distinguish; both species have leafy stems and opposite leaves less than 1 inch long. Chinese privet is semi-evergreen, and European is deciduous. Both produce showy clusters of small white flowers in spring, yielding clusters of spherical, dark purple berries in the fall. Plants were introduced as an ornamental from China and Europe.

Japanese privet has evergreen leaves that are opposite, 1 to 3 inches long and leathery. It produces showy clusters of small white flowers in spring, yielding clusters of small, round, dark purple berries in the fall. Plants were introduced from Japan and Korea.

Commitment

Elimination of these plants requires follow-up treatments for two or more years. Treated areas should be checked each year and new sprouts or seedlings treated. Establishment of a thick cover of desirable grasses through proper grazing management will help to discourage new seedlings. Generally, the more southern the areas, the more difficult the eradication, due to the longer growing season.

Timing

Foliar sprays: Privet is not well controlled by foliar sprays, but it can be suppressed. Make the application between June and early October, as long as plants are actively growing and not under drought stress.

Broadcast: Broadcast applications of Spike® 20P herbicide can be made any time the ground is not frozen or saturated with water.

Cut-stump treatments: Cut stems and stump treatments can be used year-round as long as snow or water does not prevent proper application.

Low-volume basal: Apply any time of year, including during winter months. Do not apply when the bark is wet or frozen, or when snow or water prevent proper application. Late winter and early spring applications often provide superior control. Summer applications provide good control, but applications are more difficult because of the foliage.

Annual follow-up treatments should be made no earlier than July, as resprouting may be slowed by the previous year’s herbicide applications.
Herbicides

Broadcast: Apply Spike 20P herbicide evenly over the area occupied by the target plants. Spike 20P can be applied with granular air or ground broadcast equipment. Small stands may be hand-treated. In areas receiving 20 inches or less average rainfall, apply Spike 20P at 3⁄8 ounce per 100 square feet (equivalent broadcast rate = 10 pounds per acre). In areas receiving more than 20 inches average annual rainfall, apply Spike 20P at a rate of 3⁄4 ounce per 100 square feet (equivalent broadcast rate = 20 pounds per acre).

High-volume foliar: 1 to 2 gallons of PastureGard™ herbicide/100 gallons of spray (1% to 2% v/v), plus 1 quart of nonionic surfactant. Thoroughly wet all leaves on the target plant.

Low-volume basal or cut-stump method: 50 percent PastureGard plus 50 percent oil (commercial basal carrier).

Or

25 percent Remedy® herbicide plus 75 percent oil (commercial basal carrier).

Application

Low-volume basal applications work on trees with trunks less than 6 inches in diameter at the base of the tree. The slick bark on most trees this size ensures thorough absorption of the herbicide mix. Apply enough spray to wet the lower 15 to 20 inches of the trunk – including the root collar area – but not to the point of runoff. This method can be used any time of year, except when snow or water prevents spraying to the groundline. Applications should be made with low pressure and with a solid-cone or flat-fan nozzle.

If the tree is larger than 6 inches or has mature bark in the 15- to 20-inch treatment zone, the cut-stump method is a better control option. Cut the brush and spray the outer portion of the cut surface, including the cambium ring along the inner bark. This method can be made any time of year, as long as snow or water doesn’t prevent proper application. Treating the stump with a mix of PastureGard or Remedy herbicide plus an oil-based carrier prevents re-sprouting and kills the stump for good.

For more information, visit www.RangeAndPasture.com or www.invasive-plants.com.

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<tr>
<th>LOW-VOLUME BASAL/CUT-STUMP TANK-MIX GUIDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PastureGard 50% Solution (50% PastureGard + 50% basal oil)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remedy 25% Solution (25% Remedy + 75% basal oil)</td>
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<td>Sprayer Size</td>
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