

**Works Best:** For controlling relatively young trees or older ones with few basal stems. Multi-stemmed huisache plants are much more difficult to control than younger trees or undisturbed plants.

The method has been known for years as the low-volume, basal-stem treatment technique. Research and demonstrations have shown excellent results using minimum amounts of herbicide.

**When to Apply:** Anytime during the year, although best results occur during the spring-summer growing season when temperatures are high.

## 1 Prepare the Equipment

Almost any type of pump-up hand sprayer can be used, but the most efficient way to apply the stem spray to many trees is with a backpack sprayer.

Make sure the sprayer's nozzle has a small orifice. Conejet™ 5500-X1, -X2, or -X3 nozzles work well. Compared to standard nozzles, these nozzles can reduce the amount of spray applied by 80 percent—making the use of chemicals much more cost effective.

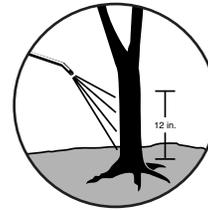
## 2 Mix the Herbicide with Diesel

A mixture of triclopyr ester (trade names: Remedy Ultra, Clear Pasture, Triclopyr R&P and Triclopyr 4EC) and diesel fuel oil is very effective for this method. Diesel acts as a coating agent to

ensure that the herbicide covers the plant and is absorbed well. Pour the required amount of herbicide into the mixing container, then add diesel fuel to bring the mixture to the total volume desired. Agitate the mixture vigorously.

## 3 Spray the Huisache

Adjust the sprayer nozzle to deliver a narrow, cone-shaped mist. Spray the mixture lightly but evenly on the plant's stem or trunk from the ground line up to 12 inches. Apply the mixture to all sides of every stem, but don't wet it so much that it runs off the stem and puddles.



### Keep these points in mind:

- Follow the herbicide label directions.
- Cost of treatment escalates rapidly as brush becomes denser or the number of basal stems per plant increases.
- Multiple-stemmed plants or rough-barked plants are more difficult to control with this method.
- Do not spray when the basal stems are wet.
- After mixing the herbicide with diesel, shake or agitate the solution vigorously.
- This method is less efficient if there is dense grass around the basal stems.

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Revision



# How to Control Huisache

*Two safe, effective, three-step ways to control huisache on small or large acreages*

## Individual Plant Treatment Series

Robert K. Lyons, Professor and Extension Range Specialist  
Megan K. Clayton, Associate Professor and Extension Range Specialist, The Texas A&M University System

Recommended concentration of triclopyr ester to mix with diesel fuel oil.

| Huisache type          | % Triclopyr | Control rating* | Amount/gallon mixed |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Stems to 4 in diameter | 25%         | VH              | 32 oz               |

\*VH = Very high (76–100% of plants killed)

**H**uisache is a common plant on rangeland and pasture in the eastern half of Texas. It is a tough, aggressive, invasive species that limits forage production and decreases the value of wildlife habitat.

Here are two three-step methods to control huisache; both are easy, inexpensive, and environmentally responsible. They involve spraying a small but potent concentration of herbicide directly on each plant. Using these Brush Busters methods, you'll be able to keep the huisache and other shrubs and trees you want and get rid of those you don't.

Keep in mind that controlling huisache is not a one-time job. Livestock and wildlife do an excellent job of spreading seeds, so you'll need to monitor your land regularly to get rid of unwanted seedlings.

The three-step Brush Busters methods for huisache control were developed and approved by professionals with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, both agencies of the Texas A&M University System. Your results may vary with weather and other conditions, but you should usually be able to kill more than seven of ten plants you treat.

Brush Busters recommends two ways to control huisache, depending upon the tree shape. If most of the huisache have a few well-defined stems or trunks coming from the ground, use the Stem Spray Method. If the huisache trees are bushy, have many stems at ground level, and are less than 6 feet tall, try the Leaf Spray Method. Whichever you choose, these simple directions will help you successfully control your huisache the 1-2-3 Brush Busters way.

## LEAF SPRAY METHOD

**Works best:** on huisache that are bushy, have many stems at ground level, and are less than 6 feet tall. This method is also known as high-volume foliar spraying.

**When to Apply:** Begin in September after any late-summer growth has stopped; then continue through November or until soil temperature drops below 75 degrees.

### 1 Prepare the equipment

Small pump-up garden sprayers, backpack sprayers, cattle sprayers, or sprayers mounted on 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles (ATV) work well. Garden sprayers are best for small acreages; backpack sprayers are usually the most efficient in dense huisache; and ATV sprayers become more efficient in large acreages or as the distance between plants increases.

Make sure your sprayer has an adjustable nozzle that can deliver a coarse spray (large droplets) to the top of a 6-foot tree. Conejet™ 550 x-6 or x-8 adjustable cone nozzles work well.

### 2 Mix the herbicide spray

You can achieve 76 to 100 percent rootkill by spraying with one of several herbicide options. To prepare the spray mix, add the selected herbicide to water. To make sure the foliage is coated thor-

oughly, add a nonionic surfactant to the spray mix (see the table below). Add a dye, such as Hi-Light™ Blue Dye, to mark the plants that have been sprayed.

### 3 Spray the huisache

Adjust the nozzle to deliver a coarse spray in a wide pattern. Wet ALL the leaves of each huisache plant until the leaves glisten but not to the point of dripping.



#### Keep these points in mind:

- Follow herbicide label directions.
- For best results, don't spray when:
  - rains have stimulated new growth in tree tops
  - leaves are wet
  - foliage shows damage from hail, insects or disease
  - you are working upwind of desirable trees, shrubs or crops
- The cost of treatment rises rapidly as the brush becomes bigger and more dense. Also, controlling huisache is not a one-time job. You'll need to monitor your land every year to check for new plants.

|                      | Ingredient                          | Concentration in spray solution | Tank Size    |        |        |         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|---------|
|                      |                                     |                                 | 1 gal        | 3 gal  | 14 gal | 25 gal  |
| Option A             | Grazon P+D or Gunslinger or Sendero | 1%                              | 1.28 oz      | 4 oz   | 18 oz  | 1 qt    |
| Option B             | Graslan L                           | 0.63%                           | 0.8 oz       | 2.4 oz | 11 oz  | 20 oz   |
| Add to Option A or B | Nonionic surfactant                 | ¼%                              | 0.33 oz      | 1 oz   | 3 oz   | 8 oz    |
|                      | Hi-Light™ Blue Dye                  | ¼–½%                            | 0.33–0.66 oz | 1–2 oz | 3–6 oz | 8–16 oz |