

Using 20% Vinegar To Kill Weeds

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Main Source: <http://www.organicgardeningshop.com/>

Compiled by Diane Emerson, of Vashon's Garden Green effort: <http://gardengreen.webs.com/>

Thank you for considering 20% vinegar rather than a more toxic weed control chemical! Here is some information to help you get the best results:

20% Vinegar is a quick-acting, non-selective contact herbicide containing an organic acid for which the residues degrade promptly in the soil. Foliar contact results in rapid desiccation and control of annual weeds and grasses, and top growth reduction of herbaceous perennial weeds and grasses. 20% Vinegar may be applied up to two days before harvest.

WEEDS CONTROLLED:

Annual Broadleaf Weeds:

Black medic, Black nightshade, Chickweed, Cinquefoil (rough), Common groundsel, Hairy nightshade, Henbit, Lambsquarters, Mustard spp., Oxalis spp., Pigweed spp., Ragweed spp., Shepherds purse, Smartweed (Ladysthumb), and Velvetleaf

Perennial Broadleaf Weeds:

Amaranth spp., Canada thistle, Cinquefoil (silvery), Dandelion, Ground ivy, Milkweed, Plantain spp., Toadflax, Tufted vetch, Wild carrot, and Moss

Annual Grasses:

Barnyardgrass, Crabgrass, Foxtail spp., Italian ryegrass, and Poa annua

Perennial Grasses:

Bluegrass, Nutsedge, Quackgrass, and Witchgrass

EARLY SEASON ANNUAL WEED CONTROL:

Apply this product when weeds are small (3 to 5 leaf stage) and actively growing. Spray this product on unwanted weeds (vegetation) to the point of wetness. For best results spray in full sunshine at temperatures above 65 degrees F. Since dilution of this product will reduce effectiveness, do not dilute. Avoid spraying landscape plants, ornamentals and other desirable foliage as this product causes severe injury to desirable plants.

FOR SPOT TREATMENT APPLICATION:

Direct spray with a single nozzle or a hand-gun applicator to thoroughly wet undesirable weed foliage. Re-treatment of perennial weed growth may be required for control.

SPRAY EQUIPMENT:

Do not apply when wind conditions favor movement of spray away from the site of application. Utilize nozzles that are designed to produce large spray droplets to reduce drift. Spray nozzles need to be plastic or 316 stainless steel as this product will eventually corrode any other metal.

FOR CONTROL OF LARGER ANNUALS AND BURNDOWN OF PERENNIAL WEED GROWTH:

Larger annual weeds and perennials are more difficult to control and may require retreatment. Treat initially as recommended above and repeat if new growth of leaves appears. Thorough coverage of all weed foliage is necessary to achieve desirable control. To reduce the amount of product required to control well-established weed stands, mow to a height of 4-6 inches and remove cut vegetation before applying this product. Do not dilute. Spray on directly.

TIMING OF APPLICATIONS:

Best results are achieved from applications to actively growing young weeds. Weeds that are mature, dormant, or hardened due to moisture stress are more tolerant of herbicide treatments. For best results spray in full sunshine at temperatures above 65°F. Only contacted vegetation will be affected.

Do not apply this product through any type of irrigation system.

Note: all contacted vegetation will be affected. do not allow this product to come in contact with desirable plants. Overspray or drift will injure or kill contacted vegetation including any crop plants.

SAFETY WHEN USING

From the WSU Extension fact sheet on horticultural vinegar: "Eye damage or irritation is possible, so it is important to wear goggles or face masks when applying products containing acetic acid. Sprayers with tin, aluminum, or iron parts exposed to the acetic acid solution will be damaged. So will any lawn furniture touched by the spray."

MORE INFO

For more local information on safer products and methods to manage Vashon Island garden challenges such as insects, slugs, weeds, rodents, moss, and more, go to www.GardenGreen.webs.com, or contact your local Master Gardeners. You can also call the Tilth Alliance, Garden Hotline: (206) 633-0224