How to Manage Macartney Rose

A safe, effective, three-step way to control Macartney rose on small or large acreages

Individual Plant Treatment Series

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Keep these points in mind:

- Follow herbicide label directions.
- For best results, don’t spray when:
  - rains have stimulated new growth
  - the leaves are wet
  - the plants are less than 3 feet tall after mowing
  - the foliage shows damage from hail, insects or disease
  - soil temperatures are below 75°F
  - you are working immediately upwind of desirable trees, shrubs or crops
  - flowers or fruits are present.
- Treat only what can be managed in a year. Control measures may suffer if too much is taken all at once.
- The cost of treatment increases rapidly as the rose hedge becomes larger and more dense. Also, controlling Macartney rose is not a one-time job. You’ll need to go over your land now and then to eliminate unwanted rose hedge sprouts.
- Macartney rose generally grows on soils with a high clay content. Soil-applied herbicides generally should not be used on such soils and are generally ineffective for controlling rose hedge.
To prepare the spray mix, add Grazon P+D™ at a concentration of 1 percent to water. To make sure that the spray sticks to the waxy foliage, add either liquid dishwashing detergent or a commercial surfactant to the spray mix (see table below). It may be helpful to add a dye, such as Hi-Light™ Blue Dye, to mark the plants that have been sprayed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Concentration in spray solution</th>
<th>Gallons mixed*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grazon P+D™</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfactant</td>
<td>1/4 %</td>
<td>1 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi-Light™ Blue Dye</td>
<td>1/2 %</td>
<td>1–2 oz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All spray solutions are mixed in water.

**Brush Busters Leaf Spray Method**

Works Best: On individual disturbed or undisturbed Macartney rose clumps:
- **Undisturbed**—Undisturbed plants that are 5 feet or less in height and diameter.
- **Disturbed**—Treat mowed or otherwise disturbed plants within 3 years of disturbance. However, avoid spraying them earlier than 9 to 12 months after mowing or when the plants have a high percentage of new growth. Expect poor control if the plants are less than 3 feet tall when sprayed.

When to Apply: Begin in the spring under good growing conditions when the soil temperature reaches 75°F at 12 to 18 inches deep. Stop in late spring during flowering and hip (“apple” or fruit) formation. Begin again in late summer or early fall under good growing conditions, and continue until soil temperatures drop below 75°F.

1. Prepare the Equipment
   Small pump-up garden sprayers, backpack sprays, cattle sprayers, or sprayers mounted on four-wheel-drive all-terrain vehicles (ATV) work well. For a few plants, garden sprayers are best; in denser stands, backpack sprayers are usually the most efficient; and in large acreages or as the distance between plants increases, ATV sprayers become more efficient.

Larger plants require higher sprayer pressures. Make sure your sprayer has an adjustable nozzle that can deliver a coarse spray (large droplets) to the top of a 5-foot clump. 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 Macartney rose with Grazon P+D™, which is a restricted use pesticide. You must have a Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License to buy or apply this product.

To prepare the spray mix, add Grazon P+D™ at a concentration of 1 percent to water. To make sure that the spray sticks to the waxy foliage, add either liquid dishwashing detergent or a commercial surfactant to the spray mix (see table below). It may be helpful to add a dye, such as Hi-Light™ Blue Dye, to mark the plants that have been sprayed.

3. Spray the Macartney Rose
   Macartney rose can be sprayed in either the spring or fall under good growing conditions. You should not spray when flowers or fruits are present or when the soil temperature is below 75°F. The spray period may last through late October.

Wet the entire foliage in the canopy of each Macartney rose plant until the leaves glisten but not to the point of dripping. The spray pressures may need to be high (300 psi or higher) to penetrate larger plants with heavier canopies.