



Honey locust and beans.

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How to Control **HONEY LOCUST**

A safe, effective, three-step method to control honey locust on small or large acreages

Individual Plant Treatment Series

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HONEY LOCUST IN TEXAS is a frequent invader in areas of East and Central Texas, as well as in creek bottoms and riparian areas throughout the state. Honey locust is a native tree of Texas and can grow up to 100 feet tall, creating dense thickets that prohibit travel for livestock and wildlife. This tree's common trait is the long, branched thorns, which act as a physical defense system.

The thorns on the plant were used by Native Americans to create tips on their fishing spears. The fruit, or pods, can contain up to 30 percent sugar and are readily consumed by livestock and wildlife. The leaves on honey locust are deciduous and located alternately on the stems. Honey locust is a member of the legume family and has bipinnately compound leaves.

The plant will typically flower from May to June, and its large bean pods will ripen in September. While livestock and wildlife will consume the pods, its leaves are considered poor forage for livestock and wildlife.

Honey locust is easiest to manage when it is at a low density and small size—less than 6 feet tall. This publication presents an easy, three-step method for honey locust control that is easy to use, environmentally responsible, inexpensive, and effective. This treatment is the high-volume foliar leaf spray method that delivers a small but potent concentration of herbicide directly on the foliage of each plant.

Using this Brush Busters method, you will be able to kill more than 7 of the 10 plants that you treat. However, keep in mind that your results may vary depending on weather and other conditions.

This method for honey locust control was developed and approved by professionals with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

BRUSH BUSTERS LEAF SPRAY METHOD

This method works best when you wish to control smaller honey locust plants that are less than 6 feet tall and in an area with a low brush density.

When to Apply: The Brush Busters high-volume foliar treatment works best when applied in late spring after leaves mature and throughout the summer as long as leaves remain healthy and not affected by drought conditions, hail damage, or insects.

1. PREPARE EQUIPMENT

Small pump-up garden sprayers, backpack sprayers, cattle sprayers, or sprayers mounted on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) work well when using the Brush Buster method on honey locust. In small areas with few plants, a garden sprayer may be adequate. In small areas with a high brush density, a backpack sprayer may be most efficient. In large areas where the distance between the plants increases, a sprayer mounted on an ATV may be the most desirable and efficient.

2. MIX HERBICIDE SPRAY

For control of honey locust, you can achieve 76 to 100 percent root kill by spraying honey locust with Sendero, GrazonNext HL, MezaVue, or Grazon P+D. If you have honey locust and mesquite in the same pasture, Sendero will provide a very high level of control on both species. If you have honey locust and prickly pear, MezaVue will control both species. GrazonNext HL, Grazon P+D, and MezaVue both require a private applicator license, while Sendero is an unrestricted herbicide that does not require an applicator license.

Herbicide Options	Concentration in Spray Solution	Tank Size		
		1 gal	3 gal	14 gal
Sendero	1.0%	1.28 oz	4 oz.	18 oz.
GrazonNext HL	1.0%			
MezaVue	1.0%			
Grazon P+D	1.0%			
Non-ionic surfactant	0.25%	0.32 oz.	5 oz.	8 oz.
Hi-Light Blue Dye	0.25–0.5%	0.32–0.64oz.	1–2 oz.	5–9 oz.

3. SPRAY THE HONEY LOCUST

Honey locust can be sprayed through the spring and summer under good growing conditions. When spraying honey locust, it is necessary to wet the entire foliage of the plant until the leaves glisten but not to the point of dripping. It is recommended to use a Conejet 550 X-6 to X-8 adjustable nozzle when spraying.

KEEP THESE POINTS IN MIND:

- ▶ Follow herbicide label directions.
- ▶ For best results, do not spray when:
 - The leaves are wet.
 - The plants have recently been mowed.
 - You are working immediately upwind of desirable crops.
- ▶ The cost of treatment increases rapidly as the honey locust density grows.
- ▶ Once plant density reaches 300 to 400 plants per acre, broadcast treatment may be more economical.
- ▶ Controlling honey locust is not a one-time job. You will need to go over your land periodically to control unwanted plants.
- ▶ Thoroughly clean spray equipment after each use.