



# HOW TO BRUSH OFF MINOR SPECIES

## Individual Plant Treatment Leaf Application

Robert K. Lyons and Megan K. Clayton\*

Brush species that can become local problems but are not widespread across the state include agarito, bumelia, catclaw acacia, catclaw mimosa, coyotillo, flameleaf sumac, lotebush, tasajillo, Texas mountain laurel, and whitebrush. These species typically occur in mixed-brush communities but have the potential to grow out of balance in some situations.

Here is a three-step leaf application method to control these species that is easy, inexpensive, and environmentally responsible. It involves spraying a small but potent concentration of herbicide directly on each plant to selectively control unwanted species. Remember, controlling brush is not a one-time job. Both livestock and wildlife spread seeds, so monitor your land regularly to control unwanted seedlings.

This Brush Busters control method was developed and approved by professionals with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research, both agencies of the Texas A&M University System. Your results may vary with weather and other plant conditions, but you should usually be able to kill 76 to 100 percent of the plants you treat.

## BRUSH BUSTERS LEAF SPRAY METHOD

**Works well on:** Plants that have good leaf canopy and are less than 6 feet tall. This method is also known as high-volume foliar spraying.

**When to apply:** Begin in late spring through summer with mature, healthy leaves. Plants should have a full leaf canopy and good soil moisture, especially plants like whitebrush that lose their leaves during dry periods.

### 1. Prepare the Equipment

Many types of sprayers work well for this method. Backpack sprayers are the most efficient for small acreages or those with a high density of trees. Larger places with lower densities may find ATV or UTV sprayers more efficient. Before you start spraying, make sure that you have an adjustable cone nozzle, such as the ConeJet™ 5500-X6 or X8 nozzle that can deliver a coarse spray with larger droplets to the top of a 6-foot tree.

### 2. Mix the Herbicide Spray

You can achieve 76 to 100 percent mortality by spraying with 1.5 percent Invora herbicide under ideal conditions. To prepare the

spray mix, add the appropriate amount of Invora herbicide to water. To make sure the foliage is coated thoroughly, add a high-quality (80 to 90 percent active ingredient) non-ionic surfactant (see table) to the spray mix or MSO-OS (organo-silicone) adjuvant at manufacturer specified rates. Add a dye, such as Hi-Light™ blue dye, to mark plants that have been sprayed to ensure proper coverage.

RECOMMENDED LEAF SPRAY HERBICIDE MIX OPTIONS*					
Ingredient	Concentration in Spray Solution	Tank Size			
		1 gal	3 gal	14 gal	25 gal
Invora**	1.5%	1.92 oz	5.76 oz	27 oz	48 oz
Non-ionic surfactant	0.25%	0.32 oz	1 oz	4.5 oz	8 oz
Hi-Light™ blue dye	0.25–0.5%	0.32–0.64 oz	1–2 oz	4.5–9 oz	8–16 oz

\*All leaf spray solutions are mixed in water.

\*\*Invora is labeled for privately owned rangelands only (excludes hayfields) and requires Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training for all applicators.

### 3. Spray the Plants

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

#### Keep These Points in Mind:

- ▶ Follow the herbicide label directions.
- ▶ For best results, do not spray when:
  - Rains have stimulated new growth at the end of the stems
  - Leaves are wet from rain or dew
  - Foliage shows damage from hail, insects, or disease
  - Working upwind of desirable trees, shrubs, or crops
- ▶ The cost of treatment rises rapidly as brush becomes bigger and denser. Download the Brush Busters Cost Calculator app to easily estimate treatment costs.
- ▶ Controlling brush is not a one-time job. You will need to monitor your land every year to check for new plants.

\*Professors and Extension Range Specialists, The Texas A&M University System