



# HOW TO CONTROL MACARTNEY ROSE:

## Individual Plant Treatment Leaf Spray Application

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Macartney rose, also known as Cherokee rose and rose hedge, presents severe management problems for livestock producers in Southeast Texas to the Middle Coastal Prairie. Imported from Asia in the late 1800s as a hedge for fencing purposes, the plant has escaped and naturalized.

Although dense stands can be somewhat controlled by using herbicides, mechanical methods, and prescribed burning, no single method has been totally effective. The most successful approach to control Macartney rose is to implement an integrated system using several methods applied sequentially. The plant is easiest to manage when there are a few single, small plants (disturbed or undisturbed).

Here is a three-step method to control Macartney rose 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 rose. Macartney rose has some use as browse and for wildlife cover, but if it is allowed to establish dense colonies, the disadvantages greatly outweigh its limited merits.

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 plants you treat.

### BRUSH BUSTERS LEAF SPRAY METHOD

**Works well on:** Individual disturbed or undisturbed Macartney rose clumps:

- ▶ Undisturbed: Undisturbed plants that are 5 feet or less in height and diameter.
- ▶ Disturbed: Apply herbicide treatment to mowed or otherwise disturbed plants within 3 years of disturbance. Avoid spraying earlier than 9 to 12 months after mowing or when plants have high amounts of new growth. Expect poor control if plants are less than 3 feet tall when sprayed.

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

#### 1. Prepare the Equipment

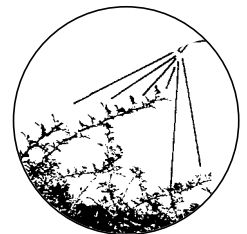
Many types of sprayers work well for this method. Backpack sprayers are the most efficient for small acreages or those with a high density of Macartney rose plants. Larger places with lower densities may find ATV or UTV sprayers more efficient. Before you start spraying, make sure you have an adjustable nozzle, such as the ConeJet™ 5500-X6 or X8 nozzle that can deliver a coarse spray with larger droplets to the top of a 5-foot clump.

#### 2. Mix the Herbicide Spray

You can achieve 76 to 100 percent mortality by spraying with an herbicide containing picloram and 2,4:D (1:4; trade names Grazon P+D, Gunslinger, or Picloram+D) under ideal conditions. To prepare the spray mix, add the selected 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 on next page) to the spray mix or crop oil, methylated seed oil (MSO), 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 and ensure proper coverage.

#### 3. Spray the Macartney Rose

Adjust the nozzle to deliver a coarse spray in a wide pattern. Wet ALL the leaves of each Macartney rose plant until leaves glisten but not to the point of dripping. The spray pressures may need to be high to penetrate larger plants with heavier canopies.



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RECOMMENDED LEAF SPRAY HERBICIDE MIX\*

Ingredient	Concentration in Spray Solution	Tank Size			
		1 gal	3 gal	14 gal	25 gal
Picloram:2,4-D (1:4) herbicide	1%	1.28 oz	3.84 oz	18 oz	32 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.

**Keep These Points in Mind:**

- ▶ Follow herbicide label directions.
- ▶ For best results, do not spray when:
  - Rains have stimulated new growth at the end of stems
  - Leaves are wet from rain or dew
  - Plants are less than 3 feet tall after mowing
  - Foliage shows damage from hail, insects, or disease
  - Working upwind of desirable trees, shrubs, or crops
  - Flowers or fruits are present
  - Soil temperatures are below 75°F
- ▶ Cost of treatment rises rapidly as Macartney rose becomes bigger and denser. Download the Brush Busters Cost Calculator app to easily estimate treatment costs.
- ▶ Controlling Macartney rose is not a one-time job. You will need to monitor your land every year to check for new plants.
- ▶ Macartney rose usually grows on soils with a high clay content. Soil-applied herbicides are generally ineffective for controlling rose on these soils.