



# HOW TO TAKE THE GREEN OUT OF GREENBRIAR: Individual Plant Treatment Stem Application

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Greenbriar is a native, perennial, woody vine of the Smilax family. Individual plants may vary in leaf shape and color and in the number of spines they contain. Greenbriar may have underground stems and/or tubers. The canes or above-ground stems are soft and fleshy in the early stages of growth but quickly mature into stout, woody vines with tendrils for climbing trees, fences, and other structures.

The small, mostly yellowish-green flowers are borne in umbrella-shaped clusters from April through June and produce many small clusters of reddish to purplish to black berries.

Greenbriar, whether spined or spineless, often becomes a problem by forming large, almost impenetrable thickets that can prevent access by people and livestock.

There are no ground or aerial broadcast recommendations for effectively controlling greenbriar. Broadcast applications of various herbicides have not provided consistent control of this tough, woody vine. However, the following three-step method is easy to use, environmentally responsible, and effective. This method treats individual plants with a mixture of herbicide and diesel fuel oil or vegetable oil applied to basal stems.

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, but you should usually be able to kill 76 to 100 percent of vines you treat.

Keep in mind that controlling greenbriar is not a one-time job. Greenbriar has hard-to-kill tubers and produces many seeds that will eventually produce new plants. Monitor your land regularly to control unwanted plants.

## BRUSH BUSTERS STEM SPRAY METHOD

**Works well on:** Greenbriar growing on fence lines or where basal stems are easy to access for spraying.

**When to apply:** During winter, when most of the leaves are gone, and basal stems can be covered more easily with the spray mix.

### 1. Prepare the Equipment

Almost any type of pump-up hand sprayer can be used, but the most efficient way to apply the stem spray to many trees is with a backpack sprayer.

Make sure the sprayer's nozzle has a small orifice. One such nozzle is the Conejet™ 5500-X1 (or X2). Compared to standard

nozzles, this nozzle can reduce the amount of spray applied by 80 percent, making the use of the chemicals much more cost-effective.

### 2. Mix the Herbicide Spray

A mixture of triclopyr ester (trade names: Remedy Ultra, Clear Pasture, Triclopyr R&P, and Triclopyr 4EC) and diesel fuel oil is very effective for this method. Diesel acts as a coating agent to ensure good absorption. A commercial basal bark (vegetable) oil carrier can be substituted for diesel if desired.

#### Recommended Herbicide Mix

Pour 25 percent triclopyr ester into the mixing container, then add diesel fuel to bring the mixture to the total volume desired. Agitate the mixture vigorously.

Ingredient	Concentration of Total Mix	Amount/ Gallon Mixed
Triclopyr ester herbicide	25%	32 oz
Diesel or basal bark oil	75%	96 oz
Hi-Light™ blue dye (optional)		0.32–0.64 oz

### 3. Spray the Greenbriar

Adjust the sprayer nozzle to deliver a narrow, cone-shaped mist.

Spray the mixture lightly but evenly on all plant stems from the ground level up to 12 inches. Apply the mixture to all sides of every stem, but do not wet it so much that it runs off the stem and puddles.



#### Keep These Points in Mind:

- ▶ Follow the herbicide label directions.
- ▶ The cost of treatment escalates rapidly as greenbriar becomes denser. Download the Brush Busters Cost Calculator app to easily estimate treatment costs.
- ▶ Do not spray when basal stems are wet.
- ▶ The best results occur during winter when more basal stems are exposed.
- ▶ After mixing herbicide with diesel fuel or basal bark oil, shake or agitate the solution.
- ▶ Controlling greenbriar is not a one-time job, and retreatment may be necessary.

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