

## Practical Herbicide Checklist

### **Do I have my pesticide license?**

- While herbiciding you must have your license on you.
- Is my pesticide license up to date?
  - Licenses expire every year on December 31 and must be renewed.
  - Every three years you must re-test and pass the State exams.

### **What is the target?**

- Indicated in Land Management Schedule
- Recognized by FPCC as invasive species & priority to remove
- Target determines what FPCC approved herbicide to use
  - Not all chemicals work on every invasive species
  - Poast won't kill buckthorn; Element 3A won't kill honeysuckle

### **How familiar am I with this target?**

- Identification – bring pictures/field guides with if unsure; Familiarize yourself with common desirable look-a-likes to avoid during treatment
- Is it a perennial or biennial? (If it's an annual you probably wouldn't treat it)
- Where is it in its life cycle? (Flowering? Dormant? Rosette? Seedling?)
  - Can I identify it accurately at this point in its life cycle?
  - Will an herbicide application be effective at this time?

### **How dense is the target population?**

- Influences herbicide method & amounts needed
  - Spot spray vs. Broadcast
  - Backpack sprayer vs. handheld
- Does patch size/density require additional applicators for effective coverage?
  - Alert other crew members of treatment area
  - Strategize treatment direction/areas with other applicators to ensure safety (no blue on shoes!)
- Start in scattered populations and progress to denser regions (prevent seed spread – try not to walk through high quality areas when leaving degraded areas at end of work day)
- Is the species rhizomatous?

### **Are there surrounding desirable native plants?**

- Dictates application method
  - Handwick in very high quality areas
  - Broadcast applications may be necessary in degraded areas
- Determines what type of chemical to use
  - Use grass specific (Poast) if sedges/forbs surround target
  - Use broadleaf specific if desirable grasses are present

### **What physical conditions are present at the site?**

- Soil considerations?
- Upland vs. Wetland vs. Aquatic?

- Slopes?

#### **What part of the site am I working?**

- Must be included as an approved area in Mgmt Schedule
- Will I be close to other volunteer workers? Youth? Public?

#### **What is the weather like?**

- Temperature?
  - High temperatures pose risk for volatilization
  - Use oil based solutions to treat stumps if below freezing
- Precipitation?
  - All FPCC chemicals with surfactant are rainfast in 1hr
  - If major rainfall is forecasted—consider postponing applications
- Cloud cover?
  - Some chemicals progress through plant faster in the presence of sunlight
  - Poast can only be used on cloudy days as it degrades in direct sunlight
- Must consider past, current and future conditions (i.e. drought, wind gusts, & rainfall)

#### **Do I have the necessary supplies to carry out the work?**

- Did I coordinate with the Site Steward to order the necessary supplies/herbicides from Volunteer Resource Center (VRC)?
- If I am an Applicator did I prepare enough herbicide for the Operators to use?
- If I am an Operator, did my Applicator prepare the necessary herbicide for me to use?

#### **Do I have all my PPE?**

- Minimum requirements listed on specimen label
- May want to take additional precautions (goggles/mask/rubber boots etc.) depending on chemical being used or site/weather conditions
- Remove clothing worn during treatment immediately & launder separately
- Always a good idea to bring a change of clothes to workdays

#### **Do I have my Herbicide Application Log to fill out immediately after treatment?**

- Did I return it to the Site Steward? (If Operator)
- Did I return it to VRC? (If Applicator)

#### **Did I display the appropriate signage & flagging to the public?**

- Appropriate amount & placed at reasonable intervals
- Can they be arranged to be removed the next day?

#### **Is follow up required?**

- Monitor treated populations to make sure application was effective
- After appropriate time has elapsed return to address any missed patches/individuals
- Return visit necessary if stumps were left high