

# Huisache Control Using Leaf-Spray Individual Plant Treatments

R. K. LYONS

## BOTTOM LINE

Grazon P+D shows potential for low-cost huisache control, but further testing is needed to confirm results of these demonstrations.

### Summary

- Three different leaf-spray herbicide mixtures were used in Gonzales County and four in Maverick County.
- All treatments provided very high control levels (greater than 75%).
- Leaf sprays including combinations of Remedy, Reclaim, or Tordon 22K cost mostly more \$0.20 per plant or more.
- Grazon P+D treatment costs averaged about \$0.10 per plant because of lower costs.
- Treatment costs for similar height mesquite plants have averaged \$0.12 per plant.
- Plant size appears to be an important consideration when dealing with huisache.
- Additional demonstration work is being conducted to confirm these results before a treatment can be suggested.

## Introduction

Huisache aggressively invades South Texas rangelands competing with other plants for water and nutrients. Individual plant treatments offer ranchers a viable tool for brush maintenance. These demonstrations were established to determine the effectiveness of individual plant treatment methods.

## Experimental Approach

In Oct , 1996, leaf-sprays were established in Gonzales and Maverick counties with mostly multistemmed plants about 70 in. tall. Treatments were applied by 3-person crews using an ATV equipped with spray tanks, electric pump, and three sprayguns with 5500-X8 adjustable conjet nozzles.

Four herbicide mixtures were used which included 1) 0.5% Reclaim + 0.5% Remedy, 2) 0.5% Reclaim + 0.5% Tordon 22K, 3) 0.5% Remedy + 0.5% Tordon 22K 0.25%, or 4) 1% Grazon P+D. All leaf-spray mixtures included 0.25% surfactant, 0.25% HiLite Blue Dye, and water as a carrier.

## Results

### Leaf-sprays

Apparent plant-kill 1 yr following treatment for leaf-spray treatments averaged 96% with a range of 86 to 100% (Figure 2). Spray costs (Figure 1) ranged from about 0.05 to 0.18 cents per plant, while labor costs ranged from 0.04 to 0.08 cents per plant. Total costs ranged from 0.09 to 0.26 cents per plant.

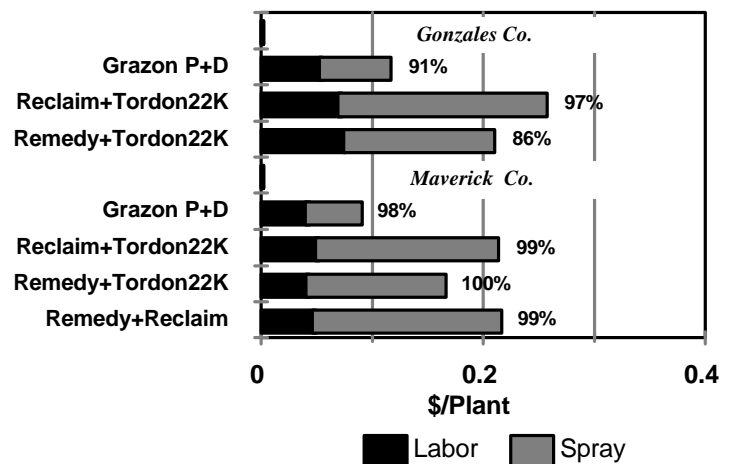


Figure 1. Huisache spray and labor costs in two counties and apparent plant-kill 1 yr following individual plant treatments.