

Stewardship Network Notes

9 Oct 07

Bruegger's Bagels

The Stewardship Network meets the second Tuesday of the month at Bruegger's Bagels on North University, UM--Ann Arbor Campus, from 7:30 to 8:30 AM. The same topic is repeated on the third Thursday of the month at The Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW) Center, 1100 N. Main, Ann Arbor, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Topic: Herbicides

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Despite the dangers of drift, and the unknowns of all effects of herbicides, there are times when it is the best approach to eliminating invasives in restoration work. A few examples:

- pulling some weeds may actually stimulate the root system, or leave it intact, as is the case with spotted knapweed,
- fire stimulates some weeds, such as Asian bittersweet and sweet clover,
- an established and seeded bank of invasives, such as garlic mustard will be only minimally affected by pulling the first year. In such a case there is very little of value growing beneath it, and a few possible losses of native plants are outweighed by the large benefits of herbicide treatment.

Glyphosate is probably the most commonly used herbicide, and is the active ingredient in Roundup. A 50% solution applied to cut stumps prevents regrowth; a 5% solution or less can be applied to leaves. Glyphosate normally contains a surfactant that makes it deadly to standing water critters, and should never be used in wetlands without certainty that it contains no surfactant. A surfactant keeps herbicide wet longer, and somewhat sticky, improving its performance.

Garlon 3A and **Garlon 4** both kill broad leaf plants without harming grasses, sedges, or monocots; and nothing else seems to work on Celastrus. Garlon 3A is water-based, and wetland-approved. Garlon 4 is ester-based, and can be applied as herbicide to basal bark; but it destroys plastic and rubber.

Tips

- Newer leaves are more vulnerable to herbicide than mature ones, which suggests cutting mature leaves and applying herbicide to regrowth, for example to periwinkle and English ivy.
- Contents on the side of the container will show % of glyphosate, not presence of surfactant.
- Rodeo, the original glyphosate, is more expensive than Roundup.
- all are available over the internet from Forestry Suppliers or Cygnet.
- Local sources include Dexter Mill, Diuble Equipment on Parker Rd, and Ann Arbor Agri-Center on Whitmore Lake Rd.
- Last word: if your conditions suggest that herbicide would be useful, try it yourself on a

small scale first in order to limit unintended results.