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COMMON BURDOCK MANAGEMENT TIPS

Common burdock, a member of the Asteraceae family, is a biennial or short-lived perennial with a taproot. The lower leaves are large, heart-shaped and resemble those of rhubarb. Stem leaves decrease in size as you go upward along the stem. The flowers are purple, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across with many long, slender, hooked spines that readily attach to fur and clothing like Velcro®. Mature plants usually grow one to four feet tall. Reproduction is by seed only. **Seed longevity is one to three years.** Burdock seed heads can become entangled in sheep's wool, lowering the value. In addition, birds and bats can become trapped on the clusters of burs.



Management efforts should focus on reducing/eliminating seed production. The area should be monitored for new growth until the seed bank is depleted and any new plants that emerge from seeds should be controlled appropriately.

Effective control measures for the management of common burdock include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling, digging & mowing):** Hand pulling, digging or mowing can provide control of small infestations of common burdock. Remove and bag any seeds or flowers to prevent seed dispersal.
- 2. Herbicide: Be sure to always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control common burdock. **DO NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in the rosette stage up to the early bolting stage.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Opensight:	1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Milestone:	3/4 – 1.25 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
GrazonNext:	1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
2,4-D:	1 - 2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water (rosette stage only).
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Opensight:	2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
Milestone:	4 - 7 oz herbicide per acre.
GrazonNext:	1 quart herbicide per acre.
2,4-D:	1 - 2 quarts herbicide per acre (rosette stage only).
DuraCor:	12 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Cultural (tilling & revegetation):** Cultivation is effective but may be feasible only in certain areas. Planting and maintaining desirable, competitive species will help slow the spread of common burdock.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of common burdock is more effective when more than one strategy is used.