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SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE MANAGEMENT TIPS

Scentless chamomile, a member of the Sunflower family, is an annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial forb with a fibrous taproot. The flower is daisy-like with white petals and a yellow center. Flower heads are solitary on each stem. Mature plants usually grow one to three feet tall. Reproduction is only by seed. Leaves are alternate, fern-like, finely divided and odorless when crushed. **A mature plant can produce up to 300,000 seeds and the seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to fifteen years.** Scentless chamomile displaces native vegetation, reduces yields in pastures and crops, and can form monocultures around ponds, streams and other frequently flooded areas as it can germinate in flooding conditions.



Management must be planned over several consecutive growing seasons at a site and should focus on preventing seed production and dispersal. 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 scentless chamomile include:

1. **Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Hand pulling and digging before seed production can be effective. Remove as much of the root as possible and place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Wear gloves when hand pulling.
2. **Herbicide: 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 scentless chamomile. **DO NOT use these herbicides on lawns, turf or ornamental sites - read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in the rosette stage up to the early bud stage.*

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

*Escort XP:	1/8 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Milestone:	3/4 – 1.25 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Opensight:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 – 2/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/3 – 1/2 oz herbicide per acre.
Milestone:	4 – 7 oz herbicide per acre.
*Opensight:	2.5 – 3 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2.5 – 3 oz herbicide per acre.
DuraCor:	12 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding 2,4-D to your tank with any of the above herbicides may improve performance. Add at the rate of 1 – 2 quarts per acre for large sprayers or 1 – 2 ounces per gallon of water for backpack sprayers.

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 (revegetation):** Planting and maintaining desirable plant communities to compete with scentless chamomile will help prevent invasion.
4. **Integrated management:** Management of scentless chamomile is more effective when more than one strategy is used.