Site preparation for Native Hawaiian Plants On Hawaii's Roadways

Dr. Joe DeFrank University of Hawaii – Manoa Dept. of Tropical Plant and Soil Science



Recommendations for all new DOT contracts Involving native plant installations on roadways

- 1. Include 6-9 months dedicated to weed eradication
- 2. Induce multiple weed flushes with irrigation, deep soil wetting essential
- 3. Kill weeds with mixture of systemic herbicides for both grass, broadleaf and sedge plants
- 4. Anticipate 3-5 spray applications
- 5. Why?



Problems with poor site preparation





















Problems with poor site preparation





















































Eradicating weeds prior to planting Native Hawaiian plants – existing ground cover

Univ. Ave. West bound on-ramp to H1













Temporary irrigation w/poly pipe – tips for blowout proof connections

Eradicating weeds prior to planting Native Hawaiian plants

Flat – minimum erosion hazard

Slopes increase erosion hazard schedule weed eradication during dry season to minimize soil erosion due to high intensity rainfall

Herbicide tank-mix to eliminate existing weeds prior to planting native Hawaiian plants along road way rights-of-way

Herbicide Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Amount per acre*	Sprayer applies 100 gallon/acre			Weeds controlled	
			50 gallons	100 gallons	200 gallons		
Round ProMax	Glyphosate 48.7%	3 gal	192 fl. oz.	3 gal	6 gal	goosegrass, foxtails, castorbean.	
Fusilade DX	Fluazifop-p-butyl 24.5%	24 fl. oz	12 fl. oz.	24 fl. oz	48 fl. oz	guineagrass, torpedograss, bermudagrass	
Element 3A or Garlon 3A	Triclopyr 44.4%	64 fl. oz.	32 fl oz	64 fl. oz	128 fl .oz	morning glory, plantain, wedelia	
Milestone	Aminopyralid 40.6%	3.5 fl. oz	1.75 fl. oz.	3.5 fl. oz	7.0 fl. oz.	horseweed, sleeping grass, Spiny amaranth, clovers	
MSO concentrate	Methylated seed oil	1.0 gal	64 fl. oz.	128 fl oz	256 fl oz.	wetting/penetrating agent	
* With Spraver gallonage to deliver 100 GPA							

This mixture applied to beginning of 6-9 month weed eradication procedure

Herbicide tank-mix to eliminate existing weeds prior to planting native Hawaiian plants along road way rights-of-way

Herbicide Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Amount per acre*	Sprayer applies 100 gallon/acre			Weeds controlled
			50 gallons	100 gallons	200 gallons	
Round ProMax	Glyphosate 48.7%	3 gal	192 fl. oz.	3 gal	6 gal	goosegrass, foxtails, castorbean.
Fusilade DX	Fluazifop-p-butyl 24.5%	24 fl. oz	12 fl. oz.	24 fl. oz	48 fl. oz	guineagrass, torpedograss, bermudagrass
Element 3A or Garlon 3A	Triclopyr 44.4%	64 fl. oz.	32 fl oz	64 fl. oz	128 fl .oz	morning glory, plantain, wedelia
MSO concentrate	Methylated seed oil	1.0 gal	64 fl. oz.	128 fl oz	256 fl oz.	wetting/penetrating agent

* With Sprayer gallonage to deliver 100 GPA

This mixture applied at middle applications in the 6-9 month weed eradication procedure

Herbicide tank-mix to eliminate existing weeds prior to planting native Hawaiian plants along road way rights-of-way

Herbicide	Active Ingredient	Amount per acre*	Sprayer applies 100 gallon/acre			Weeds controlled
frade Name			50 gallons	100 gallons	200 gallons	
Round ProMax	Glyphosate 48.7%	3 gal	192 fl. oz.	3 gal	6 gal	goosegrass, foxtails, castorbean.
Fusilade DX	Fluazifop-p-butyl 24.5%	24 fl. oz	12 fl. oz.	24 fl. oz	48 fl. oz	guineagrass, torpedograss, bermudagrass
MSO concentrate	Methylated seed oil	1.0 gal	64 fl. oz.	128 fl oz	256 fl oz.	wetting/penetrating agent

With Sprayer gallonage to deliver 100 GPA

This mixture applied as the last spray prior to planting native species

- 1. The sprayer must be calibrated to deliver 100 gallons of spray to 1 acre (43,560 ft2)
- 2. Required to use directly use the recommended herbicides mixture as provided in this protocol.
- 3. Calibration of hand held spray gun required for legal use of recommended herbicide mixture

Video of calibration

Attributes of failure with native plants on the roadways

- 1. Lack of sufficient time and effort to eradicate weeds prior to planting.
- 2. Excessive irrigation during establishment followed by complete shut off at the end of contract period.
- 3. Unavailable or unknown means of chemical weed control during establishment
- 4. Belief that native plants need less care and growth inputs than other types of commonly used landscape plants for establishment and long term persistence.

For more information on topics covered

Contact Dr. Joe DeFrank 3190 Maile Way Rm. 102 Honolulu, HI 96822

Email: defrenk@hawaii.edu

Ph: 808-956-5698 FAX: 808-956-3894

