UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
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Groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia, Baccharis* sp.) Control Herbicide Options

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BRIEF

Groundsel tree *(Baccharis halimifolia)* is a native shrub in the Aster family. It regularly occupies Southeastern United States forests and can be a competitor in pine stands. Other common names are saltbush, eastern baccharis and sea myrtle. It is a semi-evergreen to evergreen woody shrub that can grow to 20 feet tall (typically 2 to 8 feet tall) and commonly grows in clumps (Photo 1) or individual plants (Photo 2). It has opposite branching and simple oval to oblong lobed leaves 1 - 2 inches long and 1/2 - 1 inch wide (Photo 3). The flowers are white (Photo 4) and are wind dispersed. In Georgia, flowering typically occurs from August into November. *Baccharis* control may be best done prior to flowering as the windblown seeds are numerous per plant, and these seeds can germinate into young plants that will cause competitive problems in future years.

Photo 1 and 2: The photo on the left is a long clump of *Baccharis* shrubs. The photo on the right is an individual *Baccharis* shrub.

Photos 3 and 4: The photo on the left are the leaves of *Baccharis.* The photo on the right is *Baccharis* in the flowering stage. Note the new green growth.

HERBICIDES LABELED TO CONTROL BACCHARIS

I. Pre-plant to establish loblolly, longleaf, or slash pine

Add the following to the summer into fall (June - October) site prep tank

Forestry Garlon® XRT (Corteva Agriscience 83.9% triclopyr)
- Apply at 1.25 – 2.5 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil (if applied alone) or 1 – 2 qts/ac when applied with a site prep rate of Chopper Gen2. Do NOT use with nearby sensitive crops or trees when temperature is greater than 86 degrees F.

No mature hardwood border trees restrictions with Garlon as long as one does not get products on hardwood foliage and follow maximum temperature restriction (86 degrees F) for use. If Imazapyr (Chopper Gen2, Arsenal or a generic equal) is used with this product, stay 1 to 2 tree heights away from mature hardwoods on site borders.

II. Post-plant DIRECT spray in loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine stands

Forestry Garlon® XRT (Corteva Agriscience 83.9% triclopyr)
- Ester formulation of triclopyr
- A foliar active only herbicide (Garlon 3A (amine formulation) and 4 Ultra can be used as well)
- Apply at 2 – 3% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
- Apply to *Baccharis* foliage as a DIRECT spray
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- June – October application (with temperature less than 87 degrees F)

Trycera® (Helena Chemical Company 29.4% triclopyr)
- Acid formulation of triclopyr
- Apply at 1-2% solution in water + 0.25-1% non-ionic surfactant (refer to product label)
- Apply to *Baccharis* foliage as a DIRECT spray
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- Trycera has an aquatic label; possible to use near riparian areas or periodically flooded stands with a nonionic surfactant that also has an aquatic label (e.g. Induce® by Helena Chemical Company).

Vastlan™ (Corteva Agriscience 54.72% triclopyr)
- Choline salt formulation of triclopyr
- Apply at 0.75-1.5% solution in water + 0.25-1% non-ionic surfactant (refer to product label)
- Apply to *Baccharis* foliage as a DIRECT spray
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- Can be applied when temperatures are above 85 degrees F with minimal volatilization risk

III. Post-plant cut stump treatment in loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine stands

Forestry Garlon® XRT (Corteva Agriscience 83.9% triclopyr)
- Ester formulation of triclopyr
- A foliar active only herbicide (Garlon 3A and 4 Ultra can be used as well)
- Cut *Baccharis* plants and IMMEDIATELY apply at 12 – 20% solution in basal bark oil
- Apply to Baccharis cut stumps to include especially the area just inside the bark where the conductive tissue is located.
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- Late October to early February application

Trycera® (Helena Chemical Company 29.4% triclopyr)
- Acid formulation of triclopyr
- Cut groundsel tree stems and immediately treat stumps with undiluted Trycera
- Application to the cambium layer just inside the bark is most critical

Vastlan™ (Corteva Agriscience 54.72% triclopyr)
- Choline salt formulation of triclopyr
- Cut groundsel tree stems and immediately treat stumps with undiluted Vastlan
- Application to the cambium layer just inside the bark is most critical

IV. Post-plant basal bark treatment in loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine stands

Forestry Garlon® XRT (Corteva Agriscience 83.9% triclopyr)
- A foliar active only herbicide (Garlon 3A and 4 Ultra can be used as well)
- Spray the *Baccharis* plants from groundline to 18 inches 360 degrees around each stem at 12 – 20% solution in basal bark penetrant oil
- Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
- Late October to early February application

Trycera® (Helena Chemical Company 29.4% triclopyr)
- Acid formulation of triclopyr
- Apply as 5% solution in basal oil for basal bark treatments
- Apply from groundline up the lower 12-15 inches of the stem and 360 degrees around the stem
- Apply any time of year except when water may not allow for good herbicide solution contact with groundsel tree bark.
- Spray stem thoroughly so that runoff to the ground becomes noticeable

OR
- Apply as a 20-30% solution in basal oil to one side of stems less than 3 inches diameter
- Treat a 6 inch vertical segment of the main stem 12-24 inches above ground
- Apply during spring months
- Trycera has an aquatic label; possible to use near riparian areas or periodically flooded stands with a basal oil that has an aquatic label (e.g. Impel™ Red Basal Oil by Helena Chemical Company).

Be sure to follow all label directions and wear proper PPE when applying herbicides.