



January 27, 2005

Ref: 2005-1-2

Harold D. Coble, Ph.D., Agronomist
USDA/ARS/OA
Office of Pest Management Policy
202 Frostwood Drive
Cary, NC 27511

I am responding to your inquiry, forwarded to me from Rick Melnicoe, Director of the Western Integrated Pest Management Center, on January 12, 2005, regarding the use of 2,4-D on pastures and rangeland. I understand that you have already received information on typical 2,4-D use rates in Montana from Fabian Menalled, Cropland Weed Specialist with Montana State University, therefore the following information covers 2,4-D use in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

In our region 2,4-D use rates vary from 0.5 to 2.0# ae/A*, depending upon the specific use at hand. For example, in Idaho 2,4-D is used for the control of noxious weeds, sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and broom snakeweed. While the best control of rabbitbrush and broom snakeweed on Idaho rangeland is obtained at 3.0# ae/A, most 2,4-D is applied at 2.0# ae/A as means of controlling sagebrush, with rabbitbrush and broom snakeweed controlled incidentally. In Utah 2,4-D is used to control big sagebrush and is used at the 2.0# ae/A rate. Note that the total acreage treated with 2,4-D in Utah is very small as other products are now being used in lieu of 2,4-D. Use rates in Alaska range from 0.95 to 1.9# ae/A. In Washington much of the 2,4-D is applied at 0.5# ae/A, but rates range up to 2.0# ae/A.

In the course of researching a request last fall, I obtained information on herbicide use on public lands by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS). As of 2003, the rates utilized by the USFS for all PNW forest service lands ranged from less than 0.5# ai/A* to almost 4.0# ai/A with the use rate averaging 1.1# ai/A. The BLM applied 2,4-D either alone at rates of 1.0 to 1.5# ae/A or at lower rates in tank mixes with other herbicides. When all 2003 BLM applications are summed, the 2,4-D application rate averages about 1.0# ae/A.

I hope that you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane M. Thomas".

Jane M. Thomas
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* Acid equivalent per acre (ae/A) and active ingredient per acre (ai/A) are both used in this response due to variation in recording and reporting use rates.

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