

Tree-of-Heaven

Ailanthus altissima

Permits:

When treating tree-of-heaven which grows in riparian areas, it is may be necessary to obtain proper permits from Fish & Game and/or other agencies. To help you with the permitting process, check out the excellent publication called “Guide to Watershed Project Permitting” which is now available online at <http://www.carcd.org/frameset.htm>.

Physical Control:

Tree-of-heaven re-sprouts from roots quickly after cutting. Very young sprouts can be pulled with roots intact from soft soil. Mature trees can be cut at the base but will resprout rapidly from the stump and roots. Stump sprouts may grow over ten feet per year and root sprouts 3 -7 feet per year. Without herbicides, stems need to be cut at least several times per year in order to deplete the roots. Keep in mind also that each cut node of tree-of-heaven, if left in moist conditions, can quickly form a new plant. Cut stalks of tree-of-heaven must be burned or mulched to prevent this from occurring. It is most effective to follow cutting with chemical control (next section). If not using herbicides, it is necessary to dig out **all** the roots. Re-treatment will be necessary.

Chemical Control:

The key to killing tree-of-heaven is by using a systemic herbicide that kills the root mass. The most effective method is removing the mature plant and applying herbicide to the cut stump. The following chart lists the most common herbicide that is effective against tree-of-heaven. Re-treatment will probably be necessary (see next section on long-term control).

Herbicide	Time of Use	Other Notes
Roundup. (If the site is near creeks or waterways, Rodeo or Aqua Master may have to be used; check labeling)	For resprouts, in spring, just after leaves are fully expanded.	Can be used as a foliar application up to 5% solution (check product label).
	For mature trees, most effective in fall (October), just before leaves drop. Tree will be drawing nutrients into the roots and will draw in the herbicide as well.	Used full strength on the cut stumps (if used in this manner, it must be applied within a few minutes after the stem or trunk is cut).
Garlon	For young trees, in spring.	15-20 % solution over entire plant (leaves and bark). Check product label.

Long-Term Control:

Tree-of-heaven control requires vigilance and about 3 years of follow-up effort to ensure that it does not re-infest the area. Chemical treatment is the most effective way to kill tree-of-heaven since it destroys the roots. Make sure that your tree-of-heaven control program includes follow-up treatment.