

## Pasture weed control

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For some time now we have been without a pasture weed control specialist. During this time, I have been fielding a number of calls on weed control in pasture. Wanted to pass along a few friendly facts that seem to be common threads in these calls.

1. MSMA is not labeled in pasture (and never has been). It was labeled in yards and cotton but now is only labeled for golf courses and spot spraying turf farms to the best of my knowledge.
2. Most producers have a good handle on controlling broadleaf weeds in hay and pasture. My biggest training note for this is that most applications seem to be made later in the summer and producers should start earlier while weeds are small. Small, seeded broadleaves can mostly be controlled with just 2,4-D or Weedmaster® (2,4-D + dicamba) alone. If there are larger brushy or woody plants then we need to step up to something like Grazon® (2,4-D + picloram) or one of the others based on species, see the [MP44](#).
3. Fertility is an issue. For example, there are no good control options for broomsedge and some sedges and rushes in pasture. Their presence in the field is sign that there might be a fertility issue, such as pH or low nitrogen. It could also be a sign of overgrazing. Take a soil test.
4. Grass control in pasture. This one is tough. There are some weeds like Bahiagrass that have chemical options like metsulfuron applied at 0.5-1.0 oz/A, in season, usually two applications with the first beginning in May followed by another a month or so later. But many other grass weeds are difficult to control like Dallisgrass, for which there are no in-season options. But you may be able to use glyphosate early in the spring or late in the fall just after the bermudagrass goes dormant. See pages 106-119 of the [2026 MP44](#) for specific recommendations on these and other forage weeds.



**Dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*)**

There is a period in late fall to early winter when bermudagrass is dormant and dallisgrass remains green. During this time, 16 fl oz/A of 4 lb/gal glyphosate provides fair to good dallisgrass control. Bermudagrass injury varies. Timing and calibration are important. Once frost occurs, the bermudagrass should be checked frequently so that the application can be made as soon as it is completely dormant. If glyphosate products with higher concentrations are used, the rate should be adjusted.





Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*)

This recommendation is for use in established bermudagrass to control 'Pensacola' bahiagrass. In late May, apply 60 DF metsulfuron at 0.5 to 1 oz/A plus 0.25% surfactant. Make a second application three to four weeks later. It is important to follow up the herbicide application with a fertility program to encourage the bermudagrass growth. Metsulfuron is safe on bermudagrass and has no grazing or haying restrictions. Metsulfuron also controls many broadleaf weeds and some brush species. Chaparral and Pastora contain metsulfuron and will control bahiagrass.