



INVASIVE WATCH

Chinese/Japanese Wisteria Control (*Wisteria sinensis* and *W. floribunda*)

Chinese and Japanese wisterias are invasive, vigorous, showy, woody ornamental vines. These high-climbing, twining or trailing vines can climb trees, and have been observed reaching 70 feet. Chinese wisteria vines twine counterclockwise and Japanese wisteria twine clockwise around the host plant, but are difficult to separate due to possible hybrids. The stems (vines) climb by twining, covering shrubs and trees. The leaves are deciduous, alternate, compound, 4-16 inches long; Chinese leaflets 7 to 13, Japanese leaflets 13 to 19. The flowers are fragrant, lavender to violet, dangling and showy with stalked clusters appearing when the leaves emerge, and producing velvety seed pods.

They form dense infestations often with other invasive plants. Colonizes by vine growth and runner sprouting, spreading by seed appears limited. These plants were introduced from Asia in the early 1800's.

Commitment

Elimination of this plant requires follow-up for 2-3 years following the initial herbicide treatment. The treated areas should be checked each year and new sprouts or seedlings treated. The establishment of a thick cover of desirable trees and/or grasses will help discourage new seedlings. The use of selective herbicides such as Milestone®, Transline®, Capstone™, or Garlon® 4 Ultra will aid in the establishment of a desirable plant community. Generally, the more southern the wisteria is growing then the more difficult eradication can be due to the longer growing season.

Recommendations for Control

Foliar treatment:

Spray can be applied between July and October. Do not apply when plants are in drought stress.

Cut surface treatments:

Cut stem and stump treatments can be done any time of the year if the herbicide does not freeze when applied.

Basal bark treatments:

Apply any time of the year, including the winter months. Do not apply when the bark is wet or frozen. Late winter and early spring applications often provide superior control. Summer treatments produce good control, but the applications are more difficult because of the green foliage.

The annual follow-up treatments should not be done before July, because re-sprouting may be slowed from the last treatment.

Herbicides:

The most effective herbicides to manage wisteria are Milestone®, Capstone™, Garlon® 4 Ultra or Transline® herbicides. Transline is the most selective herbicide used as a foliar spray for wisteria.



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Backpack foliar spraying:

The most effective foliar spray mixtures are Milestone herbicide at 7 fluid ounces per acre or ½% solution mixed in water as a low volume backpack application or Capstone at 9 pints per acre or 2-4% solution mixed in water in a backpack sprayer.. Transline should be used at up to 21 fluid ounces per acre or mixed at a rate of 1% solution mixed in water. Use the appropriate surfactant in accordance with the surfactant label for this application. Apply the spray to all of the plant's growing tips, spraying to wet at least 80% of the foliage.

For low volume basal treatments on vines growing up trees or poles:

Garlon® 4 Ultra should be used mixed at 20 to 25 percent in basal oil. Various commercially prepared basal oils are available. Pathfinder® II herbicide is a ready-to-use product for basal bark treatments. It contains the same active ingredient as in Garlon 4 Ultra. To apply low volume basal applications, spray evenly around the stem(s), up to 6 inches in diameter, wetting the lower 15 inches.

Garlon 4 Ultra, Milestone®, and Capstone™ are selective broadleaf herbicides that do not control grasses and sedges. Desirable plants left to grow and reproduce, will be competitors with reinvasion. For guidelines about using Milestone or Capstone around trees see the Guidelines for Use Around Woody Plants on the Dow AgroSciences web site.

Transline® herbicide is a highly selective herbicide primarily affecting legumes, thistles, composites and usually causing little or no permanent damage to other plants including many trees, even when they are sprayed. Transline is generally mixed at a rate of 21 to 32 ounces in 100 gallons of water. Do not apply more than 21 ounces of Transline concentrate per treated acre.



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