Strategies for **Exotic Grass Control** in Restoration and Maintenance of Herbaceous Ground Cover

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WEED CONTROL *Unlimited*, Inc.
Bermuda
Bahia
Cogon
Preserve, rehabilitate and/or establish [desirable] native ground cover that is beneficial for wildlife and consistent with the ecosystem.
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

SITE ASSESSMENT!!

- OBJECTIVE, complete observations
- Site history
- Presence of “untouchables” (NO-NOs)
- Infestation size, density and DISTRIBUTION and AGE
- TYPE of restoration: soil-seed bank vs plant
- EXTENT of restoration
Know WHERE you want to go: Site Objective
FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT

- Get the most bank for the buck
- Know when to FOLD
- Use TRIAGE to establish priority for multiple sites/properties
HOW DO WE GET THERE?

It takes **TIME*** ... 

**THINK**

**IMPLEMENT**

**MODIFY**

**EVALUATE**

*Repeat as necessary until desired result is obtained.
Bermudagrass, Cogongrass

PRIMARY TREATMENT STRATEGY:

HERBI - NUKAGE
BERMUDAGRASS/COGONGRASS

CHOPPER @ 48 oz/ac, minimum

- BURN in winter
- Use MSO
- If site limitations preclude the use of Chopper, consider FOLDING- abandon the site for restoration...depending on infestation level.
- DO NOT TREAT during drought conditions.
- Define the perimeter and SQUEEZE.
- DO NOT DISTURB with ineffectual treatments, mowing, cultivation.
**BERMUDAGRASS**

- Use 25 GPA minimum, esp coastal-\text{COVERAGE COUNTS}
- If weeds overtop the bermudagrass- treat with Garlon, 2,4-D, Escort, etc to \text{RELEASE}
  the bermuda prior to Chopper application.
- \textbf{Delay} application 1 growing season if site was cultivated (cropped) in previous year.
- Apply during periods of \textbf{ACTIVE} growth.
COGONGRASS

- Time prescribed fire to suppress seedhead production- very site specific.
- 40+ GPA, can’t apply too much water
- Treat when ACTIVELY growing- PREFER late summer/fall
- Wait for sufficient regrowth- 2’ minimum.
- Treat 5-10 ft around perimeter of spots
- Look (SEARCH) for satellite infestations.
- Monitor and treat 2X a year thereafter until...
Are we THERE yet?
Bahiagrass

- Plants easier to kill....but look out for seed!
- No such thing as a PURE stand of bahia-almost always has bermuda embedded.
- Accord XRT, Escort, Chopper, Plateau
- Can be SELECTIVELY controlled in mixed populations with minimal impact on non-targets
KEY to SUCCESS...

- Look in the mirror- **you are the KEY**.
- **DILIGENCE, PERSISTENCE, PATIENCE, PERSERVERENCE...DETERMINATION**