

Common Weeds in Tennessee Pastures



Buttercup



Pigweed



Bracted Plantain



Bitter Sneezeweed



Musk Thistle



Horse Nettle

Buttercup and Thistle Control in Pastures and Hay Fields

Gary Bates and Neil Rhodes

UT Plant and Soil Sciences

Buttercup and musk thistle are problem weeds in pasture and hay fields across the state. These weeds can be easily controlled by following these recommendations:

1. What to spray — The ester formulation of 2,4-D is effective on these weeds. There are several brand names and formations of 2,4-D, so read the label to make sure you are getting the proper chemical.

2. When to spray — Buttercup and thistle need to be sprayed before they bloom. December offers the advantage of being able to add clovers the following February/March. Three days of 60°F high temperature are needed to activate weed growth. If leaves show damage from recent frost, wait for new growth. Pay attention to weather patterns.

3. How much to spray — Most brands of 2,4-D are formulated with four pounds of active ingredient per gallon. With this formulation, two pints per acre in **at least 20 gallons** of water per acre will provide successful control. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions.

4. How will this affect my clover? — This rate of 2,4-D will kill all red clover, but will do minimal damage to established white clover. Do not seed clovers for six weeks after herbicide application.