

# Weed Management in Brambles

Plan to start controlling weeds one to two years before planting brambles. Persistent and perennial weeds such as quackgrass, nutsedge, and thistle should be eliminated before planting brambles (see *Controlling Weeds Before Planting* section on page 178). For a complete discussion of methods used in a weed-control program, see page 172).

Herbicides for use at planting are listed in Table 3-3. Hand hoe or cultivate as needed to control weeds within the row. Plant sod between the rows in the fall before planting or in early spring after planting. The sod will aid in the control of weeds between rows. In the second and successive years, herbicides with a broad spectrum of control and longer residual

activity in the soil can be used (Table 3-4). Apply residual herbicides in early fall (September) and/or early spring (March) when weeds are germinating.

Use fall-applied herbicides to control winter annuals. Follow up with another herbicide application in the spring to control weeds in the summer. Do not apply Princep, Sinbar, Solicam, Roundup, or Gramoxone to young growing shoots in the spring. Shoots may die back and recover but will reduce yields, particularly of primocane cultivars such as Heritage.

Where soils have 2% or more organic matter, Sinbar alone or Sinbar + Karmex may be used. If the soil has less than 2% organic matter, use Surflan + Karmex. Princep has a similar mode of action as Sinbar, but generally is less likely to injure the crop. Avoid high rates of Princep or Sinbar on light soils or soils with less than 2% organic matter.

Weeds	Timing of Treatment <sup>a</sup>	Herbicide/Acre
<b>Spring/Fall</b>		
Annual weeds, some broadleaves	Within 2 to 3 days after planting.	• Devrinol <sup>b</sup> 50WP, 4-6 lb, in 20 to 100 gal. water, irrigation or rainfall to wet soil 2-4 inches within 24 hrs is required.
Grasses, some broadleaves	Within 14 days after transplanting. Do not apply if soil is cracked.	• Surflan 4 A.S., 2 to 6 qt. in 20-40 gal. water.
<b>Postemergence</b>		
Grasses	When grasses are 2 to 8" tall before seed head formation.	• Fusilade DX, 16-24 oz + 2 pt crop oil concentrate/25 gal or 1/2 pt nonionic surfactant/25 gal. • Poast 2 pt + 2 pt crop oil concentrate.
Grasses, broadleaf	Anytime.	• Gramoxone Extra, 2 to 3 pt. <i>Directed spray only.</i>
<b>Fall</b>		
Grasses, broadleaf	Fall (mid-September).	• Roundup, 1 to 3 qt. <i>Directed spray only.</i>
Some grasses, some broadleaves, some perennials	Apply Casoron in late fall (after Nov. 15) or winter of planting year.	• Casoron 4G, 100 lb.
<sup>a</sup> Before using, read comments on herbicides in Table 6-2, Small Fruit Herbicides, page 175.		
<sup>b</sup> If growing tissue-culture propagated plants, use only 4 lbs of Devrinol until mid-July of the planting year.		



<b>Table 3-4. Recommended Herbicides for Established Bramble Plantings.</b>		
<b>Weeds</b>	<b>Timing of Treatment<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Herbicide/Acre</b>
<b>Preemergence</b>		
Annual broadleaves, grassy weeds	Fall or early spring.	• Karmex 80W, 2 to 3 lb in 25 to 40 gal. of water.
Annual broadleaves, grassy weeds	Fall or early spring.	• Princep 80W, 2.5 to 5 lb.
Annual grasses, some broadleaves	Late fall or early spring.	• Devrinol 50WP, 4 to 6 lb.
Some annual grasses, some annual broadleaves, some perennials.	Late fall when soil temperature is <45°F.	• Casoron 4G, (or Norosac 4G), 100 to 150 lb.
Grasses, some broadleaves	Early spring; over weed-free surface.	• Surflan A.S., 2 to 6 qt in 20 to 40 gal. water.
Broadleaves, some 80 WP, 1 to 2 lb in primocane bearers.	Fall or early spring. Fall only for grasses.	• Sinbar at least 20 gal. <i>Directed spray only.</i>
Grasses	Fall or early spring.	• Solicam 80 DF, 2.5 to 5 lb. <i>Directed spray only.</i>
<b>Postemergence</b>		
Emerged weeds	When new weeds are present.	• Gramoxone Extra, 2 to 3 pt in 50 gal. water + non-ionic surfactant. <i>Directed spray only.</i>
Perennials, broadleaves	Fall <sup>a,b</sup>	• Roundup, 1 to 3 qt. <i>Directed spray only.</i>
Grasses	When grasses are 2 to 8" tall before seed head formation. Do not apply within 45 days of harvest.	• Poast 2 pt + 2 pt crop oil concentrate.
<sup>a</sup> Before using, read comments on herbicides in Table 6-2, Small Fruit Herbicides, page 175.		

An alternative approach that has been used by many growers is to apply sequential micro-rates of soil-active herbicides. Micro-rates are below-label rates of either Sinbar or Princep. For instance, Sinbar is labeled at 2 lb/acre, yet provides excellent control of annual broadleaf weeds at 1/2 lb/acre. Two or three sequential applications may be needed to control weeds all summer at these reduced rates, provided the cumulative amount of herbicide applied does not exceed the label rate and pre-harvest intervals are adhered to.

Avoid applying any products containing 2,4-D or Banvel or dicamba or the product Crossbow near brambles. Even slight drift or vapor movement from these herbicides into your planting may cause severe crop injury. Do not apply Liberty, Gramoxone, or Roundup to bramble leaves or severe damage will occur.

