



BEACH VITEX ERADICATION

Scratch and Dab Method

Herbicide

Glyphosate is available at home and garden stores and can be used to kill Beach Vitex. For example: Round-Up Super Concentrate Weed and Grass Killer, 50.2% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt; \$50 / quart.

*The pre-mixed solutions in “Pump-N-Go” and “Ready-to-use” bottles **are not** concentrated enough to kill Beach Vitex using the method described below. Those mixes are general developed for spraying herbicides on the leaves.

*It is important to follow all of the instructions on the label and be sure to wear personal protective equipment (long pants, long sleeves, gloves and safety glasses) when applying herbicides.

If you have it available, it is helpful to add a very small amount of Tracker Dye (blue coloring) to the herbicide solution and agitate well. The dye isn't necessary, but it is useful as an indicator so you know where you've applied the chemical and where you haven't.

Unused herbicide can be stored for several months in a cool, dark place. Make sure the container is labeled as to the ingredients and concentration. Be sure to agitate it well before using it in the future.

Application

Starting at the edge of a colony of beach vitex, find a stem running along the surface of the ground and scratch the bark with a garden hoe, machete or other tool, for a length of 4 to 12 inches. The scratch should be fairly gentle being careful to only scar the bark down to the green vascular tissue. Don't scratch all the way into the white part in the center of the stem. Using a sponge paintbrush attached by duct tape to a 2-3 ft long stick (Lowes has a long paint stirrer for 5 gallon buckets of paint that works really well for this), dab or brush the herbicide solution onto the wounded stem. Repeat by scratching and dabbing herbicide every six to eight feet of horizontal stem, especially in the vicinity of where stems are rooted into the ground. In addition, try to apply additional herbicide around the base of the plant being careful not to girdle the trunk of the plant (don't scratch the bark all the way around the trunk or stems).

You may also use the hands-on method. Put on a latex glove and then place a cotton glove over the latex glove. Dip your hand in the herbicide solution. After cutting into the stem of the plant, gently rub the cut portion of the plant.

Do not apply this herbicide if rain is predicted within one hour.

Watch treated plants for signs of die back. If, after 6 to 8 weeks, plants are continuing to thrive, you may want to make another application of the herbicide. Treat plants only during the growing season (April through mid November). There is no need to apply this herbicide when the plants are not actively growing.

Spray (Foliar) Application Method

Spraying beach vitex with herbicides is generally less effective than the scrape and dab method described above. However, if you have a very dense stand of beach vitex that does not contain any sea oats or other beneficial native dune grasses, you can treat these sites with Glyphosate using a spray or foliar application method. Follow the mixing instructions on the product. Be sure to use a clean container. Since the water in some beach towns contains various metals, distilled water is best. Unused herbicide can be stored for several months in a cool, dark place. Make sure the container is labeled as to the ingredients and concentration. Be sure to agitate it well before using it in the future.

Since coastal areas where beach vitex grows are often windy, be sure to spray plants when there is no wind. Early mornings are usually the only time the winds are light enough to spray. If you do spray during windy conditions, you risk damaging other nearby desirable plants with herbicide that blows onto their leaves.

Do not apply this herbicide if rain is predicted within one hour.

Watch treated plants for signs of die back. If, after 6 to 8 weeks, plants are continuing to thrive, you may want to make another application of the herbicide. Treat plants only during the growing season (April through mid November). There is no need to apply this herbicide when the plants are not actively growing.

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If you have questions about the treatment methods described above, please contact Melanie Doyle at 910-458-8257 extension 250. If you have questions about Round Up products, call 1-800-246-7219.