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### COMMON BURDOCK MANAGEMENT TIPS

Common burdock, a member of the Asteraceae family, is a biennial or short-lived perennial with a taproot. The lower leaves are large, heart-shaped and resemble those of rhubarb. Stem leaves decrease in size as you go upward along the stem. The flowers are purple, approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch across with many long, slender, hooked spines that readily attach to fur and clothing like Velcro<sup>®</sup>. Mature plants usually grow one to four feet tall. Reproduction is by seed only. **Seed longevity is one to three years.** Burdock seed heads can become entangled in sheep's wool, lowering the value. In addition, birds and bats can become trapped on the clusters of burs.



**Management efforts should focus on reducing/eliminating seed production. The area should be monitored for new growth until the seed bank is depleted and any new plants that emerge from seeds should be controlled appropriately.**

## Effective control measures for the management of common burdock include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling, digging & mowing):** Hand pulling, digging or mowing can provide control of small infestations of common burdock. Remove and bag any seeds or flowers to prevent seed dispersal.
- 2. Herbicide: Be sure to always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control common burdock. **DO NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in the rosette stage up to the early bolting stage.*

### Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Opensight:	1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Milestone:	3/4 – 1.25 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
GrazonNext:	1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
2,4-D:	1 - 2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water (rosette stage only).
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

### Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Opensight:	2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
Milestone:	4 - 7 oz herbicide per acre.
GrazonNext:	1 quart herbicide per acre.
2,4-D:	1 - 2 quarts herbicide per acre (rosette stage only).
DuraCor:	12 oz herbicide per acre.

**NOTE:** Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

**\* denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Cultural (tilling & revegetation):** Cultivation is effective but may be feasible only in certain areas. Planting and maintaining desirable, competitive species will help slow the spread of common burdock.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of common burdock is more effective when more than one strategy is used.