

NEWS RELEASE
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The Unwanted Plants

Some introduced plants are just too prolific in our environment. Amur honeysuckle, field bindweed, Siberian elm, Callery pear and other plants can spread into the landscape. Now is a good time to be managing these unwanted plants.

These plants can be identified by their numbers. They like to ambush the landscape in numbers. If you have lots of the same plant, it could be one or more of these plants. Contact me and I would be glad to assist in identifying unwanted plants.

I am blessed to have all of these and others to manage. For the woody plants, I use the cut stump approach. An 18% glyphosate herbicide is brushed on to the cut within five minutes of removing the top. On large stumps, just the cambium layer near the edge of the stump is all that is necessary to treat.

There are other labelled herbicides for applying to cut stumps. Products containing triclopyr and picloram are available. Read and follow directions for best use. Occasionally, injury to nearby desirable plants may occur.

This process is used on plants that aren't necessary invasive too. Some of these plants are in the wrong place or no longer serve a function in the landscape. I recently removed 40 year old redbud trees. They had aged out and were breaking up in each wind storm. Since they weren't dead, an herbicide was used to keep them from suckering.

Field bindweed has been successfully suppressed in my lawn. However, it keeps appearing in a planting bed around iris and shrub roses. I routinely treat these areas with a

labelled herbicide. My spray equipment has a shield on the wand to reduce drift to an unwanted target. The brush method is another application method.

It doesn't seem fair that the bad plants grow without effort and many of my good plants struggle. Fortunately, there are tools available to combat the unwanted .

You can find out more information on this and other horticulture topics by going to the Riley County, K-State Research and Extension website at www.riley.ksu.edu. Gregg may be contacted by calling 785-537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu.

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