

Management of
Elaeagnus angustifolia
(Russian olive)



Montana Priority 3 Regulated Plant

Plant Description

Elaeagnus angustifolia, Russian olive, is a small deciduous tree that grows to eight meters tall. The stems and twigs are sometimes thorny, have white hairs, and become an orange-brown color. The leaves are alternate, simple, narrowly lanceolate, with smooth margins, and a gray-green color. Russian olive flowers are highly fragrant and yellow to off-white in color. They form in umbel-like clusters with four acute petal-like lobes. Russian olive primarily reproduce by seeds; the fruits remain on the tree until they are distributed by animals.

Mechanical Control

Hand removal or excavation of seedlings can provide effective control. Remove as much root material as possible to prevent regrowth; bag and dispose of all plant material. Cut trees prior to the flower stage and burn cut material or treat stumps with herbicide to prevent resprouting.

Biological Control

There is currently no available biological control agent for this species.

Cultural Control

Controlled burns of seedlings and stumps has shown to be effective. Plant native ornamentals on sites near natural areas to prevent the spread of Russian olive.



Recommended Treatment Timeline

Control Type	Spring	Summer	Fall
Mechanical	Hand pull, Dig, or Cut, bag and dispose	Hand pull, Dig, or Cut, bag and dispose	Hand pull, Dig, or Cut, bag and dispose
Biological	None available		
Cultural	Burn stumps and seedlings	Burn stumps and seedlings	Burn stumps and seedlings
Chemical	Foliar spray or cut stump method	Foliar spray or cut stump method	Foliar spray or cut stump method

Chemical Control

Follow the directions on herbicide labels, the label is the law. Calibrate equipment for accurate application. Commonly used herbicides are listed below, order of listing is not reflective of efficacy or recommendation.

Personal protective equipment must be worn when applying herbicides. Only apply herbicides in appropriate weather conditions.^o

Use appropriate surfactants as listed in the product label.^o

^oRead and follow all instructions in the label of the herbicide.

Chemical Control Table							
Use Site	Herbicide (Active Ingredient - Trademark)	Pre-emergent or Soil Residual Activity	Post-emergent (Foliar Applied)	Large Sprayer Rate per Acre	Spot Treatment Rate for Every 1 Gallon of Water	Restricted Entry Interval (Hours)	Application Notes and Environmental Advisories*
Turfgrass, Non-Cropland, Rangeland	2,4-D -Several products available	no	yes	2 qt (1.9 lb a.e./A)	Consult label	48	Apply in early to mid-summer when leaves are fully developed. Will require 2-3 treatments.
Aquatic, Forestry, Pasture, Rangeland, Non-Agricultural	Imazapyr - Arsenal ^b , Habitat ^b	no	yes	1 - 2 qt (0.5 to 1 lb a.e./A)	1-4 % v/v solution	48	Nonselective, will kill any plant it comes in contact with. Apply when plants are growing or in the fall after frost.
Forest Use Sites, Non-Cropland Areas, ROW, Grazed Areas on Listed Use Sites	Triclopyr - Garlon 3A ^b (amine), Garlon 4 Ultra ^b (ester)	no	yes	1 - 2 qt (1 to 2 lb a.e./A)	25 - 50% Garlon 4 Ultra in oil for basal bark treatment	12	Apply on actively growing plants during early summer when fully leafed out. Tank mix Triclopyr with Aminopyralid to improve efficacy (2 qt Triclopyr with 7 oz Aminopyralid per acre)
Ornamentals	Glyphosate - Roundup ProMax ^b	no	yes	1.5 - 3.3 qt (Roundup ProMax ^b)	1 - 1.5% v/v solution (Roundup ProMax ^b)	4	Nonselective. Apply to foliage in the spring.

^bLewis and Clark County Noxious Weed Control Division does not endorse any trademarks or commercial names listed above.

This table summarizes selected registered use sites and is not intended to represent all approved uses. Pesticide applicability, use sites, and restrictions vary by product and formulation. Applicators must consult and follow the most current product label, which takes precedence over this document.

References

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- Corteva Agriscience. (2025). *Tordon 22k*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Registration No. 62719-6.
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- SePRO. *Habitat*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration No. 241-426-67690.

