

PIGNUT



DESCRIPTION

Pignut (*Hoffmannseggia glauca* (Ortega) Eifert), also known as hogpotato or Indian rushpea, is a native, perennial legume. The stems, petioles, flowers, and fruits are covered with tiny, distinctive, tack-shaped glands. Pignut has deep roots on which nut-like tubers develop ten to fifteen inches below the surface that are difficult to remove from the soil. The stems are eight to twelve inches tall. The leaves are mostly at the base of the stem, are three to five inches long, and twice compound with three to fifteen pairs of primary leaflets and twelve to twenty-two pairs of secondary leaflets on each primary leaflet. The secondary leaflets are oblong and one-twelfth to one-quarter inch long. The flowers are of the pea-type, yellow or orange-red, and about one-half inch long. The seed pods are flat, one to one and one-half inches long, and typically contain one to six seeds. Flowering occurs from May until September, and fruiting occurs from June until October.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law (K.S.A. 2-1313a et. seq.) requires all people to control the spread of and to eradicate pignut on all lands owned or supervised by them. Methods used for control must both prevent the production of viable seed and destroy the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means. Because pignut is a perennial species, two or more of the control methods listed below must be used together to control pignut, with the exception that herbicide applications may be used alone as a control.

PIGNUT CONTROL PRACTICES

Pignut control means that both the roots and the flowers must be destroyed.

Cultural Control

Cultural weed control involves land and vegetation management techniques used to prevent the establishment or control the spread of noxious weeds.

Frequent surveys of fence lines, roadways, ditches, and other susceptible areas for new infestations and the timely removal of any new plants will prevent pignut from becoming established.

Mechanical Control

Mechanical weed control refers to any technique that involves the use of mechanical or manual equipment to control weeds. Unless the entire root of a perennial plant species is removed as part of a mechanical control, the control is not likely to be successful. As a perennial species, pignut is difficult to control mechanically.

Cultivation three to five inches deep should be performed at least every three weeks, and more often as necessary to ensure that newly emerging weeds are not allowed to grow for more than ten days following their first emergence. Cultivation should be continued until the plants have been eradicated or have been suppressed to such an extent that remaining plants may be more economically destroyed by other treatment, such as by the application of approved chemicals to individual plants or by hand cultivation.

Small infestations should be grubbed out, taking care to remove all the tuberous, nut-like roots. This grubbing must be repeated annually for at least two years for good control. It is important to clean roots and root fragments from equipment before entering uninfested areas of the field or other fields to prevent the spread of pignut.

Chemical Control

The herbicides listed below may be used for cost-share with landowners to control pignut. Other products labeled and registered for use on this noxious weed in Kansas may also be used in accordance with label directions but are not available for cost-share. Be sure to follow all label directions and precautions. For additional information, consult the most recent edition of the Kansas State University publication of "Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland."

Any two or more of the herbicides listed below may be available for cost-share as a pre-mix or a tank mix if allowed on the respective labels. Contact your county weed program for availability.

Switching often between herbicides with different modes of action is highly recommended.

Herbicide	Mode of Action
2,4-D	4
picloram	2

Biological Control

Biological control refers to the deliberate application of a living organism to control the spread of weeds. These agents will not eradicate their host plant; therefore, other control methods must be used in addition to the use of biological control agents as part of an integrated pest management strategy. The importation of biological control agents is regulated by USDA-APHIS and is allowed by permit only.

There are no biological controls approved for use on Pignut at this time.

