

Guide to Using Glyphosate in the Home Landscape

A glyphosate product can usually handle the majority of your plant control needs in your home landscape. But nowadays glyphosate (pronounced gly-fo-sate) comes in many different formulations as can be seen from the following link. http://www.kellysolutions.com/NC/showproductsbychem.asp?PctStart=0&PctEnd=100&B1=Search&RegStatus=Products+Currently+Registered&PC_Code=103601. Here are a few tips to help you choose a safe and effective product.

All herbicides come with a specimen label. It is attached to the container itself but is also available from the internet.

<http://www.cdms.net/LabelsMsds/LMDefault.aspx?ms=1,2,3,4>

The trade name of the product, its intended use, and the active ingredients will be listed first, along with the signal word and the necessary precautions to take with the product.

Glyphosate products containing surfactants can be purchased locally from hardware and home improvement stores. Check the label for the percent Active Ingredient and preferably choose one that is at least 41% glyphosate, in the form of its isopropylamine salt. Surfactant-loaded formulations are convenient but the downside is they can kill fish, frogs, and salamanders. If this is a concern in your home landscape, choose an aquatic or wetland-safe formulation that does not contain surfactants.

A surfactant-free glyphosate product can be used for most 'cut stem' applications and will not harm fish or wildlife. Unfortunately it can be difficult to tell whether a product contains a surfactant as these and other additives are lumped under Inert Ingredients. Some examples of surfactant-free 53.8% glyphosate products are Accord Concentrate (Dow Agrosciences), Foresters Non Selective (Nufarm), Aquamaster (Monsanto), AquaNeat (Nufarm), and Rodeo (Dow Agrosciences).

If a surfactant is needed (for foliar applications) choose one that is labeled for aquatic use such as Agri-Dex Spray Adjuvant (Helena). Data supplied by the US Fish & Wildlife Service identified it as a very low toxicity surfactant that is less liable to cause harm to frogs and other amphibians.

Check farm supply stores for the surfactant-free products. You can also order them from companies that specialize in herbicides for invasive plant and aquatic weed control.

<http://www.helenachemical.com/locations/Pages/locations.aspx>

<http://www.uap.com/uap/> (see Monroe NC location for forestry herbicides).

Compare prices as cost can vary significantly from one brand to another.

To read more about how frogs and salamanders can be affected by surfactants visit the NC Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation website at <http://www.ncparc.org/>. Select Publications, then select Herbicide Choices and Amphibian Conservation.