

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
GREENWOOD COUNTY, KANSAS**

**OFFICIAL CONTROL METHODS FOR  
Caucasian Bluestem  
Bothriochloa bladhii (Retz.) S.T.Blake  
Revised May 10, 2021**

**DESCRIPTION**

Caucasian bluestem is a small blue-gray bunch grass, with flowering stems that grows 1-3 feet native to the tropical and subtropical Africa, tropical and temperate Asia and Australia. The stem joints are purple-tinged and may be smooth or with short hairs. The leaves are up to 12 inches long smooth with hairs on both surfaces. They have a thickened mid-vein and have a strong turpentine smell when crushed. The inflorescence is an open panicle, similar to Johnsongrass, whose spikes are shorter than the central stem.  
Flowering June to July

**PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF CAUCASIAN BLUESTEM**

The Noxious Weed Law (K.S.A. 2-1313a et. seq.) requires all landowners to control the spread of and to eradicate Caucasian bluestem on all lands owned or supervised by them. Methods used for control must prevent both the production of viable seed and destroy the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means. Infestation sites must be monitored after control methods have been accomplished to ensure that dormant seeds in the seedbank do not germinate and establish new infestations.

**CAUCASIAN BLUESTEM CONTROL PRACTICES**

Caucasian bluestem control means that both the roots and the flowers must be destroyed. Because Caucasian bluestem is a perennial, with the exception of herbicide applications, one or more of the following methods must be used together to control Caucasian bluestem.

**Cultural Control**

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

After the control of Caucasian bluestem, it is recommended to plant or re-seed areas with competitive grasses, forbs or other desirable plant species. Frequent surveys of pastures, feeding areas, fence lines and other susceptible areas for new infestations and the quick removal of any new plants will prevent bur ragweed from becoming established.

### **Mechanical Control**

Mechanical weed control involves the physical removal of all or the reproductive parts of weeds.

As a perennial species, Caucasian bluestem is difficult to control mechanically. While Caucasian bluestem is well adapted to spring burning and will tolerate repeated mowing better than our native bluestem grasses, burning can improve the efficacy of herbicides by removing the residual dead leaf material.

### **Chemical Control**

The following herbicides may be used for cost-share with landowners. Other products labeled and registered for use on this noxious weed in Kansas may 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 KSU 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.

<b>Herbicide</b>	<b>Mode of Action</b>
Glyphosate	9
Imazapyr	2

### **Biological Control**

Biological pest control refers to the deliberate application of a living organism to control the spread of weeds. These agents will not eradicate their host plant; other control methods must be used in addition to biological control agents. The importation of biological control agents is regulated by the USDA and is allowed by permit only.

There are no biological control agents currently available for Caucasian bluestem.