

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL CONTROL METHODS FOR
PIGNUTHoffmannseggia glauca (Ortega) Eifert
Revised May 20, 2020**DESCRIPTION**

Pignut, also known as hogpotato and 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 develop nut-like tubers 10-15 inches below the surface that are difficult to remove from the soil. The stems are 8-12 inches tall. The leaves are mostly at the base of the stem, are 3-5 inches long, and twice compound with 3-15 pairs of primary leaflets and 12-22 pairs of secondary leaflets on each primary leaflet. The secondary leaflets are oblong and 1/12-1/4 inch long. The flowers are of the pea-type, yellow or orange-red, and about one half inch long. The seed pods are flat, 1-1 1/2 inches long, and typically contain 1-6 seeds. Flowering from May-September; fruiting from June-October.

PREVENTION OF SPREAD

The 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 prevent both the production of viable seed and destroy the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means. With the exception of herbicide applications, two or more of the following methods must be used together to control pignut.

PIGNUT CONTROL PRACTICES

Pignut control means that both the roots and the flowers must be destroyed. As pignut is a perennial species, no one of the following methods of control may be used alone, with the exception of chemical controls, and your county weed supervisor must approve of any non-chemical control methods.

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, roadway, ditches 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 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, quackgrass is difficult to control mechanically. Mechanical control methods approved for pignut are:

Cultivation - Cultivate three to five inches deep at intervals so as to permit the weeds to grow not more than 10 days after each emergence of first plants, but not to exceed intervals of three weeks. Cultivation shall 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, as the application of approved chemicals to individual plants or by hand cultivation.

Grubbing - Small infestations should be grubbed out, taking care to remove all the tuberous nut-like roots. This grubbing must be repeated for at least two years annually 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

Chemical weed control refers to any technique that involves the application of an herbicide to weeds or soil to control the germination or growth of the weed species. Cost share herbicides are available to landowners for the control of noxious weeds. While county weed departments may not carry all of the herbicides listed, the herbicides that are available for pignut are:

| Herbicide | Mode of Action |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2,4-D | 4 |
| picloram | 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. Biological control agents permitted for use with pignut in Kansas are:

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