

Carmel Views Community Association

Using Herbicides (Roundup)

Our community has quite a few noxious or invasive weeds that spread rapidly, increasing fire danger and disrupting our native plants and landscaping. The best way to rid our property of these unwanted plants is manual removal (pulling/cutting), especially when we can remove the roots to keep it from regrowing. But sometimes the plant's location, density, or noxious traits means killing with an herbicide is the best option. Roundup (glyphosate) is the most commonly used herbicide. It is non-selective and will kill any plant. To keep the amount of these potent chemicals in our environment to a minimum, and keep them at a high effectiveness, here are some guidelines for using Roundup.

1. **YES to Sun, NO to Wind and Rain:** Apply roundup on sunny days with no wind and no chance of rain for 24 hours. This reduces the chance of overspray blowing onto native plants or landscaping. Letting roundup dry on the plant makes it more effective and keeps it from running off into our waterways where it can cause harm.
2. **YES to Growing Season:** Apply during spring and summer and on warm sunny days. Active plants will better absorb the chemical through their leaves and carry the chemical to the roots where it can kill the whole plant. Thus, if you have a vine where you can only reach and spray the surface of a small amount of the leaves, you can still kill the whole plant.
3. **YES to special Roundup for poison oak:** Spray Roundup on healthy leaves where it is absorbed (not thick bark or soil where it is ineffective and wasted). When spraying a plant or vine with waxy leaves (i.e., poison oak), use Tough Brush Roundup with added triclopyr herbicide. This allows the herbicide to penetrate the leaves.
4. **YES to treating the cut trunk:** If you cut down a tree or even a larger genista plant that you pruned, you can prevent regrowth or suckers from growing from the roots by coating the fresh cut stem or trunk with undiluted Roundup. You can do this by using a handheld spray bottle or a small foam brush. As

long as you coat the ring inside the freshly cut trunk with at least a 20% concentration of Roundup, you can kill a tree or large bush with a very small amount of herbicide.

5. **YES to keeping safe:** Protect yourself when mixing and applying Roundup. Wear gloves, a mask and eye protection.