Creeping indigo in Pastures

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Creeping indigo

Creeping indigo

- Often found growing with grass (not alone)
- Generally in thin turf
- Not common or rare
- Pink flowers
- Toxic

Soccer park, heavy foot traffic
Creeping Indigo

- Damaged pastures are ideal environment
  - Horse pastures in particular
C. indigo

- Legume, so likely found on sandy sites
- Deeply perennial
- Very persistent

Creeping Indigo

- Seeding most common in fall
- Seed are very hard and persistent
- Seeds commonly accumulate plant toxins
Management

1. Healthy grass
   - C.I. hates competition
   - Soil sample, improve fertility if necessary

2. Proper grazing
   - 1 acre will accommodate 600-700 lbs of horse
   - Try to keep 3-6” of grass

3. Herbicides
Herbicides

1. GrazonNext HL
   - Extremely active on all legumes (2 applications)
   - Application rate 16-32 oz/A
     • Spot spraying – 0.6 oz/gal
   - 34 oz/A/yr maximum
   - 0 day grazing (horses)
   - Do not use manure for mulch
Herbicides

2. Banvel

- Next best on legumes (2 applications)
- Application rate 32 oz/A
  - Spot spraying – 0.6-1.2 oz/gal
- 64 oz/A/yr maximum
- 0 day grazing (horses)
- Do not use manure for mulch
- Volatile. Use caution around sensitive plants
Herbicides

3. Remedy or 2,4-D

– 3rd best on legumes (2 applications)
– Application rate 32 oz/A
  • Spot spraying – 0.6-1.2 oz/gal
– 64 oz/A/yr maximum
– 0 day grazing (horses)
– Do not use manure for mulch
– Volatile. Use caution around sensitive plants
Are Herbicides Harmful?
Pesticides have a checkered past

• DDT
• Agent Orange
Pesticides have a checkered past

- DDT
- Agent Orange
- Both of these were prior to establishment of EPA in 1972.
Pesticide regulation

- Federal
  - EPA
  - FDA
- State
  - FDACS

- Over 120 specific tests ($200 million) are required before a pesticide can be registered.
- The label is then written so that there is a, "reasonable certainty of no harm"
Glyphosate toxicity

*The smaller the number, the greater the toxicity*
Herbicides on Pastures

• The choices I have listed have 0 day grazing restriction for horses
• Creeping indigo is far more dangerous than these herbicides
• However...if you are concerned, remove the horses for 3-7 days after the application.