



# Cogongrass

*Imperata cylindrica*

- Also known as Japanese blood grass
- Perennial rhizomatous grass
- Aggressive weed of forest, roadsides, disturbed areas, and a wide variety of growing conditions
- Highly flammable and fire tolerant
- Spreads by roots and seeds

**Cache County Vegetation**

**Management Division**

**435-752-1562**

**jake.forsgren@cachecounty.gov**

# Suggested Control Methods for Cogongrass

## Chemical Control

Herbicides are the most effective method for suppressing cogongrass, specifically those containing the following active ingredients:

**Glyphosate:** Best for areas where desirable trees are present, as it has no soil residual activity and is absorbed only through green leaves.

**Imazapyr:** Generally more effective than glyphosate but has significant soil residual activity and can kill hardwood trees through root absorption.

**Application Timing:** The optimal window is **late summer to early fall** (August through October), about a month before the first frost, as the plant moves energy into the roots during this time.

## Mechanical and Physical Methods

These methods are rarely successful alone and should be integrated with herbicides.

**Deep Tillage:** Repeated tillage to a depth of at least 6 inches can exhaust energy reserves in newer patches. It must be repeated every 6–8 weeks during a growing season; infrequent tillage may actually spread the plant by fragmenting rhizomes.

**Mowing and Burning:** These remove above-ground biomass but do not kill the rhizomes. Burning can be used 6 weeks before herbicide application to clear thatch and promote new growth, which absorbs chemicals more effectively.

**Manual Removal:** For very small infestations, hand-digging can work if every rhizome fragment is removed and destroyed.

## Cultural Control and Rehabilitation

**Establish Competition:** Planting fast-growing native species or competitive non-invasive grasses after herbicide treatments can help shade out remaining cogongrass and prevent re-establishment.

**Prevention and Sanitation:** This is the most critical step. Thoroughly clean all equipment before leaving an infested site to prevent spreading rhizome fragments to new areas.