

Brush Control Herbicide Recommendations

Mesquite & Cedar — spot-spray methods, product comparison, and oak-safety notes

Mesquite Control

Herbicide is the primary, well-established tool for mesquite. Timing matters more than product choice for foliar work.

Foliar spray (individual plants or light brush, under ~6–8 ft)

- Full leaf-out, actively growing, not drought-stressed — typically **June–August**.
- **Remedy Ultra** (triclopyr) mixed in diesel (~15–25% per label) — the classic backpack mix.
- **Sendero** (aminopyralid + clopyralid) — water-based (no diesel), increasingly the AgriLife-recommended pick for spot/individual-plant foliar work.
- **Chaparral** (aminopyralid + metsulfuron) — another water-based option, broader spectrum, higher cost per acre.
- Add a marker dye to track which plants have already been sprayed.

Basal bark (works year-round, no leaf-out needed, stems up to ~6" diameter)

- 1 **Remedy Ultra in diesel**, sprayed around the full circumference of the lower 12–15" of trunk.
- 2 **Sendero will NOT work here** — it is not oil-soluble and cannot penetrate bark.

Aerial / broadcast (heavier infestations, larger acreage)

- 1 **Sendero** — newer standard for large-acreage mesquite (and huisache).
- 2 **Reclaim + Remedy Ultra** tank mix — older standard combination.
- 3 **Velpar** (hexazinone) soil-applied pellets — effective but higher risk of off-target root uptake near desirable trees or drainages (see oak-safety note below).

Cedar (Ashe / Redberry Juniper) Control

Herbicide is **not** the primary recommendation for standing cedar — junipers are much harder to kill with spray than mesquite. AgriLife guidance favors mechanical control or fire.

- 1 **Primary method:** mechanical (grubbing, hydraulic shears, dozing) or prescribed fire on younger stands (under ~6 ft).
- 2 **Herbicide's only real role:** cut-stump treatment — paint **Remedy Ultra in diesel** onto the freshly cut stump immediately after cutting, to stop resprouting.
- 3 Spot-spraying standing cedar (foliar or basal bark, any product) is generally not worth the cost — poor efficacy on mature junipers.

Product Comparison

Product	Carrier	Foliar Spray	Basal Bark	Cut-Stump	Oak Safety
Remedy Ultra (triclopyr)	Diesel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lower — oaks are sensitive to triclopyr
Sendero (aminopyralid + clopyralid)	Water	Yes	No	No	Higher — narrow-spectrum, oaks less sensitive
Reclaim (clopyralid)	Water	Yes	No	No	Higher — similar to Sendero
Velpar (hexazinone)	Soil/pellet	No	No	No	Lowest — soil-active, can kill oaks with roots in treated zone

How to Apply Each Method

Figures below are typical starting points seen in Texas rangeland brush-control guidance, not a copy of any specific label — mix rates and carrier ratios vary by product concentration and change over time. **Always confirm the exact rate against the current product label before mixing.**

Method	Tree Size	Mix Rate	How to Apply	Oak Buffer / Precaution
Foliar Spray (Remedy Ultra or Sendero)	Best under ~6–8 ft. Larger trees: lower kill rate, expect re-treatment.	Remedy Ultra: ~1.5% v/v in water/diesel + 0.25–0.5% surfactant. Sendero: ~1–1.5% v/v in water + surfactant.	Wet all leaves and green stems thoroughly, including lower branches, until just wet — not dripping. A 4–6 ft mesquite typically takes ~1–2 quarts of finished mix.	Never let spray contact oak foliage. Stay outside the dripline of any nearby oak; don't spray if wind exceeds ~10 mph.
Basal Bark (Remedy Ultra only)	Stems up to ~6" basal diameter. Larger stems: less reliable, may need repeat treatment.	~20–25% v/v Remedy Ultra in diesel (e.g. 1 gal product + 4 gal diesel ≈ 20%).	Spray the lower 12–15" of trunk, full 360° around the stem, including the root collar at ground level. Wet the bark completely; roughly 2–4 oz of mix per inch of stem diameter is a common rule of thumb.	Keep 15–20 ft away from any oak trunk whose roots could overlap or graft with the treated stem — this method concentrates herbicide right at the root zone.
Cut-Stump (Remedy Ultra — mesquite or cedar)	Any size, right after cutting.	Same as basal bark: ~20–25% v/v Remedy Ultra in diesel.	Apply within minutes of cutting, before the cut face dries. Wet the entire cut surface, paying extra attention to the outer 1–2" cambium ring where resprouting tissue lives.	Same buffer as basal bark — avoid stumps sharing a root zone with a desirable oak.

Bottom-Line Recommendation

- 1 **Want one product that covers both foliar and basal bark/cut-stump, and don't have oaks nearby:** Remedy Ultra + diesel. Most versatile, works year-round via basal bark.
- 2 **Spraying near desirable oaks:** Sendero for the foliar work — narrower spectrum, oaks are much less sensitive to it than to triclopyr. You'll still need Remedy Ultra separately for any basal bark or cut-stump work, since Sendero can't do those.
- 3 **Cedar:** cut it mechanically or burn it — don't spend money spraying standing cedar. Follow up cut trees with Remedy Ultra on the fresh stump.
- 4 **Avoid Velpar** anywhere near desirable trees, including oaks — its soil activity is the biggest off-target risk of anything discussed here.

This is a starting-point summary, not a label or a substitute for one — exact rates, timing windows, and current label restrictions vary and change. Confirm against the actual product label and your county AgriLife Extension agent before treating, especially near desirable trees, water, or property lines. See also the Range Weed Guide (Hamilton County, TX) in Ranch Manager's Range section.