Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*) Control Herbicide Options

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**Brief**

Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), also known cow itch vine or hummingbird vine, is in the *Bignoniaceae* family and is native to the Eastern US. Trumpet creeper can occupy our SE US forests and can be a competitor in pine stands. Trumpet creeper is a deciduous vine that can “climb” trees up to 40 feet or greater heights (Photo 1) or in clumps growing on shrubs or in a clump lower to the ground (Photo 2). If not controlled, it can kill the trees it grows on by canopying over the crowns and not allowing adequate sunlight to get to the tree’s foliage for photosynthesis. The 1 to 4 inch long green leaves are pinnate, ovate in shape and opposite (Photo 3). The orange to red showy flowers are terminal cymes of 4 to 10 found on the plants in the late spring into summer (Photo 4). Large (3 to 6 inch long) seed pods are formed on mature plants in the fall that hold 100s of seeds (Photo 5). Trumpet creeper control is best performed during active growth periods from mid-June to early October in Georgia. If trumpet creeper has climbed up into the trees, a prescribed burn or cutting the vines to groundline may be needed to get the climbing vine down to groundline where foliar active herbicides will be effectively applied. In either of these cases, treat trumpet creeper after allowing new green growth to develop after the burn or cutting.

**Herbicides labeled to Control Trumpet Creeper**

**I. Pre-plant to Establish Loblolly, Longleaf, or Slash Pine**
Add one of the following to the summer (June - October) site prep tank

**ACCORD® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 53.6% glyphosate)
- A FOLIAR active only herbicide
- 2-3 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO or crop oil

**ARSENAL® AC** (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)
- A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- Apply at 16 to 24 oz/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
- Application timing is from June to early October (prior to leaf color change)

**CHOPPER® GEN2** (BASF; 27% imazapyr; 2 lb per gal)
- A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
- Apply at 32 to 48 oz/ac
- Application timing is from June to early October (prior to leaf color change)

**FORESTRY GARLON® XRT** (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)
A FOLIAR active only herbicide (Garlon 3A, 4 and 4Ultra can be used as well)
• Apply at 1.25 – 2.5 qts/ac + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil (if applied alone) or 1 – 1 ½ qts/ac when applied with a site prep rate of Chopper OR Arsenal

No mature hardwood border trees restrictions with Accord or Garlon as long as one does not get products on hardwood foliage. If Imazapyr (Chopper or Arsenal or a generic equal) is used with these products, stay 1 to 2 tree heights away from mature hardwoods on site borders.

II. Post-plant over-the-top application in Loblolly Pine Stands

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)
• A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
• Broadcast apply at 8 - 16 oz/ac + 1/4% non-ionic surfactant AFTER August 15th of the 1st growing season in areas where Trumpet creeper is present
• Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)
• Consider using Garlon as a DIRECT spray treatment over Arsenal where there are sensitive, desirable plants near-by as Arsenal is soil + foliar active and if the applicator gets some product on the ground at this concentration in a small area, desirable plants may die.

III. Post-plant over-the-top application in Longleaf and Slash Pine Stands

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)
• A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
• Broadcast apply to the foliage of Trumpet creeper where it is present at 6 - 12 oz/ac with NO surfactant AFTER August 15th of the 2nd growing season through the 5th growing season
• Application timing is from mid-August to early October (prior to leaf color change)
• Consider using Garlon as a DIRECT spray treatment over Arsenal where there are sensitive, desirable plants near-by as Arsenal is soil + foliar active and if the applicator gets some product on the ground at this concentration in a small area, desirable plants may die.

IV. Post-plant DIRECT spray in Loblolly, Longleaf, and Slash Pine Stands

ACCORD® XRT (DOW AgroSciences 53.6% glyphosate)
• A FOLIAR active only herbicide
• 3-5% solution + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO or crop oil
• Apply to trumpet creeper foliage as a DIRECT spray
• Do NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
• Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)

ARSENAL® AC (BASF; 53% imazapyr; 4 lb per gal)
• A SOIL + FOLIAR active herbicide
• Apply at 1% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
♦ DIRECT spray Arsenal, water and surfactant solution thoroughly wetting all foliage (just before the point of runoff), especially the sapling top. DO NOT spray desirable plants.
♦ A backpack sprayer, 12-volt operated 15 or 25 gallon tank sprayer (on an ATV or tractor) or PTO driven tractor mounted sprayer using a medium droplet size.
♦ Application timing is from mid-July to early October (prior to leaf color change)
♦ Consider using Garlon over Arsenal where there are sensitive, desirable plants near-by as Arsenal is soil + foliar active and if the applicator gets some product on the ground at this concentration in a small area, desirable plants may die.

FORESTRY GARLON® XRT (DOW AgroSciences 89.3% triclopyr)
♦ A FOLIAR active only herbicide (Garlon 3A, 4 and 4Ultra can be used as well)
♦ Apply at 2 – 3% solution in water + 1% non-ionic surfactant, MSO, or crop oil
♦ Apply to trumpet creeper foliage as a DIRECT spray
♦ DO NOT apply on planted pines or any other desired vegetation
♦ June – October application (with temperature less than 90 degrees F)

Photos 1 and 2. The photo on the left is trumpet creeper growing up a tree. The photo on the right is trumpet creeper growing in a clump.
Photos 3 and 4. The photo on the left are the leaves of trumpet creeper. The photo on the right are the flowers of trumpet creeper. Note the new green growth on the left photo. This is a good time to apply the listed above herbicide(s) for best control after initial late spring (June) into summer (July-September) growth.

Photo 5. The seed pods of trumpet creeper.