

This WEED REPORT does not constitute a formal recommendation. When using herbicides always read the label, and when in doubt consult your farm advisor or county agent.

This WEED REPORT is an excerpt from the book *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States* and is available wholesale through the UC Weed Research & Information Center (wric.ucdavis.edu) or retail through the Western Society of Weed Science (wsweedscience.org) or the California Invasive Species Council (cal-ipc.org).

Amorpha fruticosa L.

Indigobush

Family: Fabaceae

Range: Throughout the western states except Alaska, Montana, and Nevada.

Habitat: Riparian areas/floodplains, forest edges, meadows, rights-of-way, and parks.

Origin: Native to eastern and central North America. Also considered native to California. Apparently escaped from cultivation as an ornamental.

Impacts: Grows densely and almost eliminates other plants within these stands.

Western states listed as Noxious Weed: Washington



Indigobush is a woody, deciduous perennial that grows to 12 ft tall. The leaves are pinnately compound, with 13 to 25 leaflets, each 1 to 2 inches long and elliptical in outline. Leaflets are dotted with glands, covered with downy hairs, and have smooth margins. Plants produce several stems up to 3 or 4 inches in diameter. The lower stems that become buried in sediment are capable of producing new stems along their length. Old stems have a furrowed bark, while newly-grown stems are smooth, green, and lightly hairy.

Flowers are about ¼-inch long and are borne in dense clusters on upper branches in late summer. Five sepals form a cone-shaped calyx and a single dark purple to blue-violet petal wraps around 10 bright yellow stamens. The fruits are pea-like pods, ¼-inch long, oblong to curved, dark brown and dotted with glands. Each pod contains 1 or 2 seeds which likely survive in the soil for many years. Plants primarily reproduce by seed which either fall directly to the ground or move long distances by floating downstream in water.

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, disking)	Indigobush is difficult to control mechanically as it vigorously resprouts from crowns. It is not rhizomatous, however, so it can be controlled by repeated defoliation and digging and severing the root 3 to 4 inches below the crown. Repeat as necessary to control regrowth. Mowing and cultivation of this woody species is not usually an option, although brush hogs can be used to remove large stems. Removal of branches in midsummer can decrease seed production, and may therefore limit the spread of indigobush.
Cultural	Although it is not reported to be toxic, there are no reports that indigobush has been controlled by grazing. It is also not known how this species would respond to plastic or fabric mulches.
Biological	There are no known biological control agents to aid in the control of indigobush.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

The following specific use information is based on reports by researchers and land managers. Other trade names may be available, and other compounds may also be labeled for this weed. Directions for use may vary between brands; see label before use. Herbicides are listed by mode of action and then alphabetically. The order of herbicide listing is not reflective of the order of efficacy or preference.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Clopyralid <i>Transline</i>	Rate: Broadcast foliar treatment: 1.33 pt product/acre (0.5 lb a.e./acre). Cut stump treatment: up to 50% of concentrated herbicide in water Timing: Postemergence to rapidly growing plants. For cut stump treatment, applications can be made
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	<p>when plants are dormant or rapidly growing.</p> <p>Remarks: When using a cut stump treatment, cut stems as close to the soil line as practical and apply enough product to wet the cut surface. Treatments should be made as soon as possible after cutting (within one hour is recommended).</p>
AROMATIC AMINO ACID INHIBITORS	
<p>Glyphosate</p> <p><i>Roundup, Accord XRT II, and others</i></p>	<p>Rate: Cut stump treatment: up to 100% of concentrated herbicide</p> <p>Timing: When plants are dormant or rapidly growing.</p> <p>Remarks: Cut stems as close to the soil line as practical and apply enough full-strength solution to wet the cut surface. Treatments should be made as soon as possible after cutting (usually within an hour is recommended). Foliar treatment of indigobush may also be made, but control from 2% foliar glyphosate was rated as only fair.</p>

RECOMMENDED CITATION: DiTomaso, J.M., G.B. Kyser et al. 2013. *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States*. Weed Research and Information Center, University of California. 544 pp.