



Control of Invasive Malta and Yellow Starthistles in Central Arizona

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Invasive Malta and yellow starthistles (*Centaurea melitensis* and *C. solstitialis*) were treated with several herbicides in the spring of 2008. In Arizona, Malta starthistle is found invading habitats at elevations < 4,000 ft in the Sonoran desert shrub and grassland communities, while yellow starthistle is found at higher elevations in juniper woodlands and Ponderosa pine vegetation types. Malta starthistle was treated a site about 25 miles north of Phoenix, and yellow starthistle was treated within the city of Payson in central Arizona. Both species were in the rosette or early bolt phenological stage of growth at time of treatment. Mortality data was collected approximately 60 days after treatment, by sampling plant density. Clopyralid, aminopyralid and KJM - 44 herbicides effectively controlled both species with mortalities exceeding 90 percent. These herbicides broaden the choices vegetation managers have when selecting tools for invasive species control.

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