

How to Get Rid of Horsetail

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Horsetail is an ancient plant and has survived for hundreds of million years for a reason. It has an extensive root zone and does not respond to many chemical controls due to its unique structure. It cannot move herbicides around therefore cannot be controlled in many situations.

Horsetail and Rush around a water source, boggy area or marsh:

If you have horsetail or rush (often confused with horsetail) near any type of water source AND you are want to apply an herbicide, you will be violating federal law in doing so. You can try to starve it with a deep layer of mulch, although it will likely grow through. You cannot apply any product listed below for field or landscape management if you have water in the area, are below the high water mark or a wet location.

Horsetail and Rush in a field or landscape without a water source:

The only way to attempt to get rid of it is to starve it out. Early in the spring, clear the area of any top growth. Apply Casoron (Dichlobenil), a pre-emergent that prevents seedlings from coming up, to the area. Don't substitute any other pre-emergent like Preen: they do not work as well. Cover the area with at least ten layers of newspaper and three inches of mulch. Leave this alone for the next year, pulling out any stray stems that might pop up. Repeat as need. You can plant through the mulch and paper the following year. Good luck.

Eliminating faulty practices and using good land and water management practices are essential in controlling unwanted vegetation

Use pesticides and herbicides safely!

- Wear protective clothing and safety devices as recommended on the label. Bathe or shower after each use. Different body parts will absorb chemicals at different rates.
- **Read the label**—even if you've used the produce before. Label chance often. Follow closely the instructions on the label (and any other directions you have).
- Be cautious when you apply these chemicals. Know your legal responsibility as a pesticide applicator. **You may be liable for injury or damage resulting from incorrect use.**
- **Please be aware of application timing, weather and temperature as to not harm beneficial insect and pollinators in the area.**

Trade-name products and services are mentioned as illustrations only. This does not mean that the participating Extension Services endorse these products and services or that they intend to discriminate against products and services not mentioned.