Wipe out weeds

Weeds in ground cover beds present a challenge for removal. You cannot spot spray or you injure the ground cover. Hand weeding can be done from the edges but walking into the bed to reach the other weeds damages stems often leaving dead branches. But, what alternative do you have? Wipe the weeds.

Wiper (or wick) applications of glyphosate have been used for years to control weeds that are taller than the surrounding desirable vegetation. There are several brands of wipers available. All work on the same principle – a concentrated solution of glyphosate is wiped onto the exposed portions of the weed.

Guidelines for using a wiper to apply glyphosate.
When using a wiper you contact only a small percentage of the foliage. Consequently, higher concentrations are used to “drive” the absorption and translocation of the herbicide. Use a 41% active ingredient formulation of glyphosate (there are many such products on the market including: Roundup-Pro, Glyphos, Glystar, Glyphomax, etc.). Mix one part glyphosate herbicide with two parts water to make a 33% (by volume) solution. Put this mixture into the applicator. Make sure the wick is saturated with the herbicide solution before use.

- Do not apply when the foliage is wet (surface moisture reduces the amount of herbicide solution wiped onto the foliage).
- Make applications when the weeds are 4 to 6 inches taller than the desirable vegetation.
- Wipe in two directions to make sure all weeds are treated.
- Do not mow or hoe treated weeds for at least 5 days after treatment.

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