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Warning: ROUNDUP Herbicide Can Be Harmful to Your Palms' Health

We read with interest the July article which included a study on the use of a postemergent herbicide ROUNDUP. This chemical is a non-selective, very effective, potent plant killer. Extreme caution should be used when applying ROUNDUP for weed control. It should never be sprayed near valuable plants. This chemical is usually applied with a wick applicator which is used to "wipe" the tops of weeds. Always mix and dilute according to the label—a tiny amount will go a long way. As an example, a whole clump of bamboo can be destroyed if one leaf of one cane is dipped in undiluted ROUNDUP. The chemical spreads quickly throughout the entire plant system and provides a sure, quick kill. To eliminate irritating patches of poison ivy, fill a cup with ROUNDUP diluted by half with water and using a small paintbrush, stroke one leaf of each ivy. It is also very effective on cat-tails.

While ROUNDUP may not affect some woody ornamentals or mature palms, it is far too dangerous to use without extreme caution and complete knowledge of its potency. Be aware and beware.

LYNN AND KENNETH MCKAMEY