

Esplanade™ Herbicide for Invasive Annual Grass Control. Harry Quicke,
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Managing invasive winter annual grasses is a challenge in many regions of the US. During the winter and early spring, these species exploit moisture and nutrients before native plant communities break dormancy. This results in dense stands of winter annual grasses invading roadsides and other disturbed areas and significant reductions or elimination of desirable perennial grass, forb, and shrub species. Currently, there are limited management options for controlling winter annual grasses that work consistently, provide multiple years of control, and do not injure desirable plant communities. This presentation covers research conducted at Colorado State University demonstrating that Esplanade herbicide provides long-term residual control of winter annual grasses allowing for the release or re-establishment of desirable species. Field studies compared downy brome and feral rye control with Esplanade to currently recommended herbicides. A greenhouse study compared Esplanade and Plateau® herbicide for pre-emergence control of downy brome, feral rye, jointed goatgrass, Japanese brome, medusahead and ventenata. This research provides the first evidence of a new option for residual invasive winter annual grass control.