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Flame Weed Control Gets Widespread Attention

There are many ways to kill weeds and insects, one of which can be found at your local, farm, hardware or LP dealer. Enter the weed burner.

Propane burners have long been used to burn weeds on farms and ranches. A newer phenomenon, however, is the homeowner picking up a torch to control weeds and grasses around the lawn, garden, driveway and fence line.

“It’s really the easiest and most natural way to control weeds around the home and garden,” says Tim Morse, sales manager for Flame Engineering, Inc., manufacturer of Red Dragon Torches in La Crosse, KS. “We get hundreds of calls each week from people looking for alternatives to chemicals. The torch fits the bill.”

The retail cost of a weed burner ranges from \$55.00 to \$90.00, depending on the model. Add a 20-lb. tank for around \$30.00 and you’re ready to kill weeds. How does it work? It is not necessary to reduce weeds to ashes, the company says. Simply pass the torch over unwanted weeds and grasses at a slow walk and just a split-second exposure bursts leaf cell structure which impedes photosynthesis. Eventually, the weed will wilt and die. It works best on plants which are under four inches tall with a stalk smaller than a pencil.

“Even when propane is relatively high, the cost per application is well below the cost of applying herbicide. And, consumers like the idea of the natural control versus the use of chemicals. They prefer their children and pets not be exposed to areas which have been treated with herbicide,” Morse says.

Since the introduction of their web site, , thousands have responded saying they’ve been looking for the product but didn’t know where to find it, he says.

“It’s true, we don’t have the notoriety of Roundup or the hoe, but we’re growing. Who knows, maybe some day we will.” In addition, the torch makes an excellent thawing tool in the winter. Many consumers have found the torch handy for melting snow and ice on sidewalks and driveways.

Word is spreading fast. In the past year, Flame Engineering has been mentioned in numerous lawn, garden and farm publications. With natural weed control being such a “hot” topic, Morse says his company is often contacted for comment.

“People don’t think about flaming weeds, even though it’s the oldest method of clearing unwanted vegetation known to man. Early man burned wooded areas to make way for grazing land or cultivation. It’s the same concept here, only on a smaller scale.”

The hand-held weed burner is just one of many products the company manufactures. They now offer equipment for weed control in row crops, vineyards, orchards and alfalfa.

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Manufacturer of Red Dragon Products