Agricultural Extension Service University of California

WEEDY WISDOM

From Your Tulare County Farm Advisor

Dear Grower:

November 30, 1965

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Probably something should be said about University recommendations on one weed killer and not on a similar one, when both are reported to give good control. When you ask a farm advisor about using a chemical in a crop, he may say the University does not have a recommendation on that chemical in that crop. This can be misleading if it is not explained in more detail.

When a chemical is recommended by the University, it means that the University has done work on both the performance of the chemical and the residue that might remain. The University's pesticide lab checks the method of obtaining residue information and field researchers, often the farm advisor, helps get reference data. But until this is completed, a University representative cannot legally recommend the treatment.

This is a check system the University of California set up to make sure it has the necessary research for its recommendation. Often this work is all done by the time the company registers the treatment with the USDA and the State Department of Agriculture and we'll be recommending the treatments along with the salesman. At other times the University of California may not have the data it requires so it will hold up a recommendation until they are satisfied. This University of California recommendation does not have anything to do with the salesman's suggestions.

Salesmen are bound by what is written on the label of the container and on how it is registered as to what they can say.

WEED CONTROL AROUND THE FARMYARD

Weed control around the yard, in the machinery parking area, around power poles and pumps where bare soil would be desirable can be started at this time of the year.

A soil sterilant such as Diuron, Simazine, Monuron, Atrazine, or Bromocil can be used. A rate of 5-pounds per acre is usually enough to give good control of all annual plants for a year or more. Bromocil is somewhat more active and can usually be used at about half the rate of the others.

At this rate, these chemicals will not control perennial weed plants. They work by killing the germinating weed seeds or the young plants with shallow roots, therefore, they should be applied to small weeds, or better yet, bare soil.

They should not be applied to any area where some type of planting will be done in the next year or two. Using a heavier rate will give longer control but the danger to adjacent trees and plantings becomes more of a problem.

The reason we treat now is to let the winter rains carry the chemicals into the soil, and the root zone of the weeds. The cost at the 5-pound per acre rate is less than fifty cents per 1000 sq. ft. These chemicals can be obtained in 4 or 5-pound bags. What you have left this year can be used next year if you store it safely. These chemicals do not carry a poison label and should cause no problem around the farm in normal use.

Acre rates when applied to small areas are always difficult to determine. A 5-

Post Office Building, Visalia 93278 Telephone 734-7481

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pound rate of Diuron, Simazine, Atrazine, and Monuron is about 5/8 cup full of the wettable powder to 1000 sq. ft. of area. Small areas can be treated at the rate of one level teaspoonful to each 25 sq. ft.

The amount of water needed will depend on the sprayer used. One approach is to spray a 1000 sq. ft. of area (20 x 50 ft.) while someone keeps time by the second-hand on a watch. Maybe spray it in two directions to get good coverage. Now put the nozzle in a bucket and spray for the same length of time. This should be the water needed for each 1000 sq. ft. to be sprayed. You could add the 5/8 cup of powder to this amount of water for each 1000 sq. ft. area you wish to cover. Remember to double spray the area if you double sprayed while timing the rate of water.

Caution: If there are tree roots under an area, avoid this area or the tree may show damage or die because it will pick the chemical up from the soil. Do not use Bromocil near walnut trees.

PARAQUAT - NEW LABEL

Paraquat has been around for sometime but its use has been quite limited because of registration problems.

A new label has several additional uses that should be of interest to growers. The general statement is that Paraquat is a special formulation of bipyridinium salt for general weed control purposes. This product is effective on both broadleaf weeds and grasses. The chemical is inactivated on contact with the soil.

Under the directions, there are suggestions for use in:

I. Trees and Vines: for citrus and walnuts; for apples, pears, peaches, plums, prunes, nectarines and cherries; for grapes and nursery plantings.

II. Preplant and Pre-emergence treatment: cotton, melons, safflower, corn, sorghum; for kill of annual broadleaf weeds and grasses; for suppression of volunteer barley and wild oats.

III. Pasture and Range Reseeding.

IV. Non-Crop Areas.

A surfactant is needed to get maximum results from the treatments.

I feel this weed killer should be a real help to those growers that want to remove wild oats, volunteer barley, and other weeds during the winter and early spring from areas where cotton is to be planted. Often the soil surface is too wet to cultivate at this time and the soil surface dries slowly under the heavy cover.

This is a nice chemical to work with. It is about like coffee or tea when mixed with water. My plots indicated that if a spray was applied one day, results could be seen the next afternoon, if it was a nice, bright day. Sunshine seems to help activate the chemical.

Any grower using Paraquat should read the label and carefully follow the directions on it.

Our University of California 1965 Weed Control Recommendations does not list Paraquat for weed control because of the recent registration of new uses. So, until the new University of California recommendations are printed, growers that use Paraquat should do so on the company's label suggestions.

To simplify information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products. No endorsement of name products is intended, nor is criticism implied to similar products which are not mentioned.

Sincerely,

Vincent H. Schweers
Farm Advisor

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