Stop Weeds Before They Start

— Pointers for Enhancing Pre-emergence Herbicide Performance in Citrus



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Horticultural Sciences







 'Weed free' rows or under trees



Weed managed citrus rows

Major challenge is
'longer-term'
suppression of
weeds



Weeds come up quickly in the citrus rows

Citrus grove soils are persistent '<u>seed banks'</u> for weeds



Spanish needle

Citrus grove soils are persistent **'<u>seed banks'</u>** for weeds



Cutleaf evening-primrose

Citrus grove soils are persistent '<u>seed banks'</u> for weeds

Suppression of weed seed bank is important to prevent future weed problems!



Pennsylvania cudweed

Important strategy to prevent weed outbreak in your grove



"NEVER LET 'EM GERMINATE"

Suppressing weed germination – *prevention is better than cure*

- Preventing the weed germination from soil seed bank
- Key strategy for <u>long-term</u> citrus weed control
- Achieved by PRE-emergent herbicide programs



-for successful weed suppression in citrus



Major PRE-emergence herbicides used in FL citrus





Consult **Florida Citrus Production Guide: Weed Chapter** for a complete listing of herbicides used in citrus and their rate suggestions



Getting the best out of PRE-emergents *__tips for improving efficacy*



Getting the best out of PRE-emergents *__tips for improving efficacy*



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<u>Rotate</u> POST tank-mixing partners for **PRE-emergent** herbicides



Scouting and understanding the weed pressure helps for PRE-emergent herbicide selection

Spanish needle



Goatweed



Ragweed Parthenium



				Estimated
PRE/ POST	Active ingredient	M O A	E.g., Products	effectiveness rating
PRE	Indaziflam	29	Alion	Good
PRE	Flumioxazin	 14	Chateau	Good
PRE	Diuron	5	Karmex	Fair-Good
PRE	Simazine	 5 	Princep	Fair-Good

- Not a complete listing.
- For crop specific herbicide rates and complete herbicide listing consult UF IFAS citrus production handbook . Read the product label carefully before application.
- Estimated effectiveness was developed from research data, herbicide labels, and the observation from research and extension faculty

Scouting and understanding the weed pressure helps for PRE-emergent herbicide selection

Bermuda grass



Guinea grass



			Estimated	
PRE/ POST	Active ingredient	M O A	E.g., Products	effectiveness rating
PRE	Indaziflam	29	Alion	Good
PRE	Flumioxazin	14	Chateau	Fair-Good
PRE	Pendimethalin	3	Prowl	Good

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Scouting and understanding the weed pressure helps for PRE-emergent herbicide selection

Dayflower



- Succulent annual
- Reproduce via seeds/stem

PRE/ POST	Active ingredient(s)	M O A	E.g., Products	Estimated effectiveness rating
PRE	Norflurazon	29	Solicam	Good
PRE	Diuron	5	Karmex	Good

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<u>Consider</u> using strategies to get the best out of PRE-emergent herbicides

Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides with different modes of action



- Increase the spectrum of weed control
- Reduce tolerance/resistance issues
- Need to ensure:
 - Mixing compatibility
 - Absence of any antagonistic effects

Herbicide synergy — 'Tank Mixing' pre-emergent herbicides

• Active ingredient – Brand name(s)



Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides with different modes of action



Mode of action group (WSSA)	Active Ingredient(s)	Products		
14	Flumioxazin	Chateau		
29	Indaziflam	Alion		

Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides - Treatments

Active Ingredient(s)	Products	Product Rate (per acre)
Flumioxazin	Chateau	6 oz.
Flumioxazin	Chateau	8 oz.
Indaziflam	Alion	3 oz.
Indaziflam	Alion	5 oz.
Flumioxazin + Indaziflam	Chateau + Alion	6 oz. + 3 oz.
Flumioxazin + Indaziflam	Chateau + Alion	8 oz. + 5 oz.
Control	_	



Trial location: Immokálee, FL 2-year study

- Data from Year 1 is presented
- Trend was similar in Year 2

- RCBD (4 reps)
- All treatments included glyphosate (Roundup Custom) at 88oz product per acre & adjuvants, Quest (0.25%v/v) and Induce (0.5% v/v) in the tank mix

Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides - Results

<u>5+</u> Months



- Replication (n) = 4
- Mean comparison: Fisher's LSD ($\alpha = 0.05$)
- p ≤ 0.0001



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Colby, S. R. Calculating Synergistic and Antagonistic Responses of Herbicide Combinations. Weeds 15, 20–22 (1967).

5+ Months

Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides with different modes of action



Control

 $\underline{2}$ Months

Indaziflam + Flumioxazin

2 Months

Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides with different modes of action

Indaziflam + Flumioxazin <u>5</u> months after application



Study location: Immokalee

Major PRE-emergence herbicides used in FL citrus



Consult **Florida Citrus Production Guide: Weed Chapter** for a complete listing of herbicides used in citrus and their rate suggestions

Tank mixing PRE-emergent herbicides with different modes of action



Mode of action group (WSSA)	Active Ingredient(s)	Products
2	Rimsulfuron	Pruvin
29	Indaziflam	Alion

Active Ingredient(s)	Products	Product Rate (per acre)
Rimsulfuron + Indaziflam	Pruvin + Alion	2 oz. + 3.5 oz.
Rimsulfuron + Indaziflam	Pruvin + Alion	4 oz. + 3.5 oz.

PRE-emergent herbicide retention in soil – important for weed suppression





Challenges with Florida soils





Typical Crop production soils

SW Florida Crop production soils Sand >95% Clay <1% Organic matter <1%

Basically, beach sand !

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PRE-emergent herbicide retention in soil – important for weed suppression





- Herbicide sticker or Deposition agent
- E.g., Polyvinyl polymers
- E.g trade name Hydrovant fA
- Tank-mixed with PRE-emergent herbicide <u>Flumioxazin</u> (Trade name: Chateau)



- Herbicide sticker or Deposition agent
- Polyvinyl polymer
- E.g trade name,. Hydrovant *f*A
- Tank-mixed with PRE-emergent herbicide <u>Flumioxazin</u> (Trade name: Chateau)



- Replication (n) = 4
- Mean comparison: Tukey's HSD (α = 0.05)
- * Significant difference ($p \le 0.05$)

- Herbicide sticker or Deposition agent
- Polyvinyl polymer
- E.g trade name,. Hydrovant fA
- Tank-mixed with PRE-emergent herbicide **Flumioxazin** (Trade name: Chateau)



Chateau 8 oz/acre + Hydrovant fA 0.1% v/v

- Replication (n) = 4
- Mean comparison: Tukey's HSD (α = 0.05)
- * Significant difference ($p \le 0.05$)



Flumioxazin + adjuvant ~3 months

Untreated control ~3 months



Chemical weed control – tree-safety matters

 Avoid spray contact with tree foliage



Chemical weed control – tree-safety matters

 Avoid spray contact with tree foliage



Chemical weed control – considerations



Avoid spray contact with fruits and tree foliage

- Deliver the herbicide to target
- Right spray-boom height
- Optimal OC nozzle angle





0-10⁰

Nozzle body angle as measured from the nozzle housing



16" 1.5 ft

40⁰

Reach of the spray is impacted by the OC nozzle angle





Off Center (OC)
Nozzle angle

Higher the spray, and farther the spray beyond the boom

Increases the chances for foliage and fruit phytotoxicity in citrus

- Maintain optimal OC nozzle angle
- During fruit bearing stage

Example: less than 40 degrees Reduce the spray drift into canopy and fruits

Chemical weed control – considerations



Avoid spray contact with fruits and tree foliage

- Deliver the herbicide to target
- Right spray-boom height
- Optimal OC nozzle angle
- Maintain optimal spray pressure

Chemical weed control – considerations



Maintain optimal spray pressure

Example: 20-30 psi

Reduce the production of smaller spray droplets

Lateral travel distance herbicide spray droplets travel



Smaller spray droplets can travel up to 1000 feet

Low spray pressure reduce the production of smaller spray droplets

Chemical weed control – considerations



Avoid spray contact with fruits and tree foliage

- Deliver the herbicide to target
- Right spray-boom height
- Optimal OC nozzle angle
- Maintain optimal spray pressure

Consider rotating PRE-emergence herbicides



Rotate PRE-emergence herbicides





- Helps improve the spectrum of weeds managed
- Helps reduce the possibility of residue build-up & leaching into root zone

Chemical weed control – tree-safety matters



Follow the <u>max allowed</u> <u>annual amount</u> in the label accurately

Root uptake of herbicides

- High level of residues



Diuron root uptake injury

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Impacts of PRE herbicides on citrus root health





Rhizotron studies to evaluate the impact of herbicide programs on root development in citrus

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Tested pre-emergence herbicide programs did not significantly affected the roots

Er Tu

Number of reps: 4 Error bars: ±SD Tukey's HSD (α 0.05)

- Observation period of ~3-months

Hamlin orange Study Location 1 Similar trend in Location 2

 No significant differences between the treatments

Valencia orange Study Location 1 Similar trend in Location 2



Source: Nirmal Timilsina (MS project)

Treatments



Summary: strategies for improving PRE-emergence performance

Enhancing efficacy

- Timely application
- Product selection
- Tank mixing PRE-herbicides
- Utilizing adjuvants (soil binding agents)

Improving crop safety

- Avoid spray contact with foliage/fruits
- Rotate herbicide products



'Collecting measurements from herbicide treated plots' – Nirmal Timilsina, MS graduate student

Herbicide quick ref tables/guides available:

P	oste	em	erg	enc	e He	K Reference Guide to erbicides for Citrus Weed (Florida Citrus Production Guide and their effects on weed in	S.H. Conti	Futch, B. A	Sellers, and	d 5. 5. Tee
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Thank you...

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- SWFREC weed science team
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