

Managing weeds in tissue culture plantlets in the Herbert

Managing weeds in tissue culture plantlets is critical to their success. Weeds can be managed through cultivation or through the use of herbicides.

Prior to planting

Ensure that all cane volunteers and weeds are controlled during the fallow period by mechanical methods (like discing) or herbicides like:

- Weedmaster® Crucial @ 3.6-5.5 L/ha
or
- Weedmaster® DST @ 3.5L/ha
or
- Verdict® @ 0.4-0.6L/ha

Control of cane volunteers is essential to ensure that plantlets are not infected with RSD.

Good control of weeds during the fallow period will reduce the weed pressure once the plantlets are established.

Immediately after planting

It is recommended to apply a pre-emergent herbicide over the tissue cultured plantlets immediately after planting. The following herbicides can be used:

- Dual Gold® @ 1.5L/ha
or
- Stomp @ 3L/ha



Knockdown herbicides that can be used during the growth phase

Nutgrass control- Sempra® @100g/ha + Activator® @ 200mL/100L

Broadleaf weeds- MCPA @ 0.95L/ha + Starane Advance® @ 0.7/ha + Activator® @ 100mL/100L

Grass weeds- Gramoxone® @ 1.25L/ha or Daconate® @ 3L/ha through a shielded sprayer + Activator @ 100mL/100L

Avoid using 2,4-D and Auslox® based herbicides because they may cause crop damage.

Out of hand spraying

Apply all herbicides as a directed sprays using Irvin legs or droppers. Consider the following options:

- Gramoxone® @ 1.25L/ha + Stomp® @ 3L/ha + Atradex® @ 2.8kg/ha
or
- Gramoxone® @ 1.25L/ha + Dual Gold® @ 1.8L/ha + Atradex® @ 2.8kg/ha
or
- Gramoxone® @ 1.25L/ha + Balance® @ 80-100g/ha + Atradex® @ 2.8kg/ha
(avoid using this option on sandy soils)

Stomp® or Dual Gold® can only be used once during the year.

Avoid using BobCat Imaxx®, Amitron®, Valor® or Flame® in this situation because of potential crop damage or because there is a lack of information on the products crop safety in this situation.

For further information on the management of tissue culture plantlets

Contact your local HCPSL Field or Extension Agronomist on 47761808.

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