

SUMMER GRASS CONTROL WITH THE NEW GRASS KILLERS

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No group of weeds bother our alfalfa growers in the Imperial Valley as much as the various summer grasses. Principal amongst these are junglerice (*Echinochloa colonum*), barnyardgrass (*E. crus-galli*) and prairie cupgrass (*Eriochloa contracta*).

The most common method of control for these grasses has been the use of EPTC applied into the irrigation water starting in early spring and continuing on a schedule through the summer. EPTC has proved efficacious for this use if it can be initiated before these weeds start germinating and consistently maintained through the season. Unfortunately, this is not always feasible and weeds escape the ability of this herbicide to control them.

The new grass killers offer the option of controlling these weeds after they germinate if applied in a proper manner. Although none of these compounds are presently registered for use in alfalfa, we know that the manufacturers of Poast and Fusilade are pursuing a label.

Results in this area over the past three years have demonstrated the ability of these compounds (and other related chemicals) to control grasses at reasonable rates and costs.

Tables 1 and 2 shows a compilation of research results with these herbicides in the Imperial Valley. In summary, I would say that all of these herbicides can be used without any fears of injury to the alfalfa at the rates tested. Of the two herbicides closest to registration (Poast and Fusilade) it is apparent that Poast has the advantage for control of these summer grasses. Curiously, Fusilade has consistently shown a better ability to control bermudagrass and Johnsongrass. The new product of Dupont's (Assure), is very active, but is not very close to a label at present.

These grass herbicides have created a lot of excitement amongst weed researchers since their introduction, and continue to do so. Let's hope we see some labels soon.

Table 1

Rating - Weed Control - 6/16/82			Replication				AVG
Treatments	lb.ai/A	Adjuvant	I	II	III	IV	
Poast	.2	1	9	8	7	8	8
Poast	.2	2	4	7	9	6	6.5
Poast	.4	1	9	9	9	6	8.25
Fusilade	.2	1	5	6	1	4	4
Fusilade	.2	2	6	9	4	9	7
Fusilade	.4	1	4	7	8	4	5.75
CGA82725	.2	1	5	9	8	6	7
CGA82725	.2	2	4	7	6	6	5.75
CGA82725	.4	1	6	9	6	9	7.5
Untreated Control			1	1	1	1	1

1 = No control, 10 = All weeds dead
Weed present - prairie cupgrass

Rated by Carl E. Bell

Table 2

Rating - 8/2/83	Prairie Cupgrass Control					
	lb.ai/A	Replication				AVG
Treatments		I	II	III	IV	
Poast	.25	8	5	5	9	6.75
Poast	.5	10	10	8	10	9.5
Poast	1.0	10	10	10	10	10
Fusilade	.25	3	3	2	2	2.5
Fusilade	.5	1	4	4	7	4
Fusilade	1.0	8	7	9	5	7.25
Hoe 00581	.25	7	8	8	5	7
Hoe 00581	.5	10	10	9	9	9.5
Hoe 00581	1.0	10	10	10	10	10
CGA 82725	.25	2	2	2	4	2.5
CGA 82725	.5	4	8	6	8	6.5
CGA 82725	1.0	9	9	8	6	8
DPX-Y6202(Assure)	.25	4	7	9	4	6
DPX-Y6202(Assure)	.5	10	9	10	9	9.5
DPX-Y6202(Assure)	1.0	10	10	10	10	10
SC 1084	.25	1	1	2	1	1.25
SC 1084	.5	2	3	4	2	2.75
SC 1084	1.0	8	9	7	9	8.25
Check	1	1	1	1	1	1
Check	1	1	1	1	1	1

1 = No control, 10 = All plants dead

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