

Alligatorweed Management in Rice
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Alligatorweed has become a major problem in some areas and some fields over the past few years. As shown below, alligatorweed may result in a 25% yield reduction. This increase may be due to changes to rotation, cultivation, and/or major herbicides. Labeled herbicides and rates available through 2004 only provided suppression of alligatorweed. Test plots have been established and evaluated in fields with alligatorweed problems for the past three years. The objective of these studies was to evaluate several herbicides and Grasp alone and in tankmixes for alligatorweed control. Grasp is a new herbicide labeled for use in rice in 2005.

We have had five studies in producer fields in Colorado County over the past two years. The results of all studies were similar. The results discussed here are from a study conducted in a production rice field of Cocardie near Eagle Lake, TX. Alligatorweed populations were relatively high throughout the experimental site.

Grasp was applied at 0.027 lb ai/ac alone and in combination with Stam, Grandstand, and Permit at the 3-leaf and the 4- to 5-leaf rice growth stage. Other herbicides were applied at the labeled rate. Treatments of Stam, Grandstand, Regiment, Londax, Peak, and Facet without Grasp were also compared and applied at the 4- to 5-leaf rice growth stage.

All herbicide applications at the 3-leaf rice growth stage controlled alligatorweed greater than 85% at 31 days after treatment. However, by 63 days after treatment control decreased to 86% with Grasp alone, and 77% with Grasp + Grandstand. Other treatments provided less than 42% alligatorweed control. Treatments of Grasp alone and in combination with Grandstand or Permit at the 4- to 5-leaf stage provided greater than 95% control. Greater than 95% control was also achieved with tankmixes of Regiment and Grandstand, Facet and Stam, and single applications of Peak. All other herbicide treatments controlled alligatorweed less than 70%. Yield ranged from 9261 to 6941 lbs/ac with few treatment differences. Treatments of Peak, Londax, Londax and Stam, and the untreated yielded significantly lower than all other herbicide treatments.

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