

Chemical Control of Parthenium in Pakistan

Recognize the problem

Parthenium weed (also called 'Famine weed') impacts many different aspects of rural and urban life. In high concentrations in the field, it can affect the growth and yield of crops like sugarcane, mung beans, wheat and maize; and also the health of livestock if it is consumed regularly.

It can affect human health in both the rural and urban environment. Where the weed is allowed to flower, the pollen released not only causes allergies and hayfever, but also causes more serious cases of dermatitis.

Background

This nefarious weed needs to be controlled and its spread reduced through an integrated approach that includes preventative and management techniques. Whilst the use of chemicals should not be considered as a first resort, they do provide short-term solutions.

Management

Pre-emergence:

- Application of 250 grams of Aclonifen or metribuzin per acre after sowing of sugarcane.
- Application of Aclonifen may also be applied in onion, garlic, potato and peas.
- Application of 700 grams of atrazine plus S-metolachlor per hectare after sowing of maize.
- Application of 500-570 grams of metribuzin per hectare after sowing of potato.

Post emergence:

- Application of 1% formulation of paraquat solution during the weed's early growth stages in non-croplands, gardens and tree plantations. Can also be used as a direct spray among crop rows.
- Application of 2% formulation of glyphosate solution during the weed's advanced growth stages in non-croplands, gardens and tree plantations. Can also be used as a direct spray among crop rows.
- Application of 2 Kg of ametryn plus atrazine per hectare in sugarcane.
- Application of 125 grams of metribuzin per hectare in sugarcane.
- Application of 500 ml of bromoxynil plus MCPA per acre in wheat.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Parthenium plant (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) (Photo by Ethel Aardvark)



Flowering Parthenium (Photo by Forest and Kim Starr)



The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan



Authors: AARI
Ayub Agricultural Research Institute
tel: +92 41 9201671 email: dgarg@brain.net.pk

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