

GIANT RAGWEED CONTROL IN COTTON**L. E. Steckel****C. Main****University of Tennessee****Jackson, TN****W. G. Parker****University of Tennessee****Ripley, TN****Abstract**

Giant ragweed is becoming a more prevalent problem in cotton fields in Tennessee. Historically, giant ragweed was mostly confined to field edges but in recent years has progressively spread into cotton fields. One reason for this is that giant ragweed has a good level of natural tolerance to glyphosate. In the Tennessee Weed Control Manual glyphosate is only listed as a 5 for control of giant ragweed on a 1 to 10 scale.

Therefore, research was conducted that examined giant ragweed control with several different herbicides in a cotton production system. This research was conducted on a cotton field in Lauderdale County, Tennessee that was heavily infested with giant ragweed. Herbicide treatments were Pre emergence applied Caparol at 32 oz/A, Cotoran at 32 oz/A, Staple LX at 2 oz/A, Caparol at 32 oz/A + Staple LX at 2 oz/A and Cotoran at 32 oz/A + Staple LX at 2 oz/A. Post applications included 22 oz/A of Roundup Weather Max applied at the 2nd and 4th cotton node. Mid-post applications were Envoke at 0.15 oz/A or Staple LX at 3.8 oz/A.

Due to very dry spring no pre applied herbicide provided control of giant ragweed. The sequential Roundup WeatherMax applications provided only 30% control. The mid-post applications of Envoke and Staple provided 67 and 60% giant ragweed control respectively. A hooded application of Ignite following these mid post applications provided the best 85% control. This one year of data would suggest that Envoke or Staple applied over the top followed by Ignite will provide the best giant ragweed control.