CHEMICAL STALK DESTRUCTION OF 2,4-D TOLERANT COTTON IN SOUTH TEXAS

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Abstract

In South Texas, timely destruction of cotton stalks remains vital for eliminating overwintering opportunities for boll weevil. This is commonly accomplished with the application of 2,4-D to cotton stalks after harvest. With the widespread adoption of 2,4-D tolerant varieties in this region, alternative herbicides must be identified for termination of these varieties. In 2018, four trials were conducted in Weslaco, Corpus Christi, and College Station to evaluate strategies for using either dicamba or dichlorprop to terminate cotton varieties possessing this trait. The results of these trials indicated that cotton mortality was greatest when herbicide applications were initiated immediately after harvest or within two weeks after harvest, before significant regrowth occurred. Across these trials, dichlorprop was often more effective than dicamba when applied to either mowed or standing stalks soon after harvest. In addition, the tank mixtures of dichlorprop and thidiazuron were often more effective than dichlorprop alone. When applications were delayed four weeks after harvest, control of cotton stalks was greatly reduced at Corpus Christi and College Station.