ALTERNATIVES FOR 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. Four field trials were conducted in after cotton harvest in 2019 at Corpus Christi and Weslaco, TX to investigate strategies for using dichlorprop and dicamba to chemically terminate cotton stalks possessing the 2,4-D tolerant trait. When applied to mowed cotton stalks with no regrowth present at application, sequential applications of dichlorprop at 1.0 lb a.e. acre⁻¹ (38%). When applications were made to mowed stalks with small amounts of regrowth present at application, sequential applications of both dichlorprop and dicamba provided good control of cotton stalks (both 91% control). When herbicide applications were delayed two weeks after mowing and stalks were allowed to continue to regrow, sequential applications of dichlorprop provided greater control of cotton stalks (90%) than sequential applications of dicamba (60%). Additionally, the combination of thidiazuron with either dicamba or dichlorprop enhanced control of cotton stalks in many instances in these trials.