

COMMON POKEWEED CONTROL IN CORN AND SOYBEAN. Scott A. Nolte, Bryan G. Young and Gordon K. Roskamp, Graduate Research Assistant, Assistant Professor and Professor, Department of Plant, Soil, and General Agriculture, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901 and Department of Agriculture, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455.

Common pokeweed continues to be a management problem for growers. An increase in no-till production and a decrease in the use of soil residual herbicides may have allowed this weed to become more prevalent in certain areas. Growers typically use postemergent (POST) herbicides for control of common pokeweed. However, information on chemical control using POST herbicides is not well documented with the exception of local recommendations from industry and university resources. Therefore, studies were conducted at three locations evaluating the efficacy of several POST herbicides and the effect of application timing on control of common pokeweed in corn, soybean and non-crop situations.

Several herbicides were evaluated including chlorimuron, cloransulam, imazamox, thifensulfuron:chlorimuron, glyphosate, imazethapyr:imazapyr, diflufenzopyr:dicamba, dicamba:dicamba:diflufenzopyr:nicosulfuron, and mesotrione. Various application timings corresponding to size and stage of common pokeweed were also evaluated. In soybean, all glyphosate alone treatments regardless of rate or timing provided at least 88% control of common pokeweed at the end of season. Control with cloransulam and thifensulfuron:chlorimuron was only 68 and 38%, respectively. Tank-mixing glyphosate with these herbicides increased common pokeweed control by at least 29%. In corn, all treatments applied early POST controlled at least 91% of common pokeweed at 56 days after the last application. Late POST treatments containing imazethapyr:imazapyr or dicamba provided 71 to 80% control while mesotrione provided 94% control of common pokeweed. Control prior to harvest was similar from all treatments with the exception of dicamba:diflufenzopyr:nicosulfuron applied late POST, which provided slightly less control. In non-crop, glyphosate was applied at 840 and 1,300 g ae/ha on 15, 30, 61 and 122 cm tall plants. Control of common pokeweed was 99% for all treatments with the exception of the low rate of glyphosate applied to 122 cm tall plants (97%). With POST herbicides available for effective control of common pokeweed, growers need to consider time of application in conjunction with herbicide selection to maximize control.