

Weed Control in Sugar Beets with Triflusalufuron as Influenced by Herbicide Combination, Timing, and Rate[†]

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ABSTRACT

Broadleaf weed control with triflusalufuron applied alone, sequentially, and in tank mixture with several herbicides registered for use in sugar beets was evaluated in field experiments. Triflusalufuron applied alone or after a soil-applied herbicide did not satisfactorily or consistently control redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*), common lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), hairy nightshade (*Solanum sarrachoides*), and kochia (*Kochia scoparia*). When triflusalufuron was tank mixed with desmedipham and phenmedipham, weed control was more consistent and equally effective with later applications when weeds were larger. Compared to using phenmedipham and desmedipham alone, triflusalufuron plus phenmedipham and desmedipham improved kochia control.

Additional Key Words: cycloate, desmedipham, diethatyl, ethofumesate, phenmedipham, *Beta vulgaris* L., common lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album* L.), hairy nightshade (*Solanum sarachoides* Sendtner), kochia (*Kochia scoparia* (L.) Schrad.), redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus* L.), sequential herbicide applications.

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The economic loss in sugar beets due to weeds when no herbicides are used is estimated to exceed \$350 million nationwide while losses due to weeds still exceed \$60 million when best management practices are used for weed control (Bridges, 1992). Kochia (*Kochia scoparia* (L.) Schrad.), nightshade species (*Solanum* spp.), redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus* L.), and common lambsquarters, (*Chenopodium album* L.) are considered to be the most difficult weeds to control in sugar beets in Idaho (Bridges, 1992). It is well documented that weeds reduce sugar beet yields (Dawson, 1965; Schweizer, 1973, 1981, 1983; Schweizer and Bridge, 1982; Schweizer and Lauridson, 1985; Weatherspoon and Schweizer, 1969).

Weeds usually can be controlled with currently registered sugar beet herbicides as long as they are applied properly and at the correct stage of crop and weed growth (Schweizer, 1980; Wilson, 1993). However, broadleaf weeds are most susceptible to postemergence herbicides when they are very small. For example, kochia is most susceptible to phenmedipham plus desmedipham from the cotyledon stage to about 1 cm in diameter. Consequently, kochia control is difficult because it is susceptible to postemergence herbicides for such a short time period.

Sulfonylurea herbicides were developed in the mid-1970s (Beyer et al., 1988). This class of herbicides became commercially available with the introduction of chlorsulfuron in the mid-1980s. Several others have since been registered for broadleaf and grass weed control in cereals, corn, soybeans, rice, rangeland, and non-cropland.

Triflurosulfuron is a new postemergence sulfonylurea herbicide for the control of broadleaf weeds and suppression of annual grass weeds in sugar beets (Kral et al., 1992). It has been reported to have a high degree of crop safety and weed efficacy in sugar beets, especially when tank mixed with desmedipham plus phenmedipham or desmedipham. (Allison et al., 1993; Dexter et al., 1993; Miller and Fornstrom, 1993; Morishita et al., 1992; Renner and Crook, 1993; Wilson, 1993).

The objectives of these experiments were to define the optimum rate and application timing of triflurosulfuron for broadleaf weed control and compare the effectiveness of triflurosulfuron applied alone, sequentially, and in tank mixture with other sugar beet herbicides for control of several broadleaf weeds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field experiments were conducted near Kimberly and Parma, ID in 1991 and 1992. Soil type at Kimberly was a Portneuf silt loam (coarse-silty, mixed, mesic, Durixerollic Calciorthids) and a Greenleaf

silt loam (fine-silty, mixed, mesic Xerollic Haplagarids) at Parma. Soil pH was 8.0 and 7.8, organic matter 1.6 and 1.5%, and CEC was 15 and 21 meq/100 gm soil at each location each year. Experimental areas were fertilized according to University of Idaho soil test recommendations before planting sugar beets and during the growing season as needed. Sugar beet planting dates and other agronomic information are listed in Table 1. Row spacing was 56 cm and each plot was 4 rows wide and 9 m long. Plots were sprinkler irrigated as needed throughout the growing season.

Soil-applied and postemergence trials. Herbicides were applied with a hand-held or bicycle wheel sprayer pressurized with CO₂. Preplant incorporated (PPI) and preemergence (PRE) treatments were applied broadcast using 11002 flat fan nozzles calibrated to deliver 94 L/ha. All PPI treatments were incorporated immediately after application with a roller harrow set to incorporate the herbicide 5 cm. The implement was pulled two times across the treatments at a speed of 8 km/h. Postemergence (POST) applications were applied in a 25 cm band over the row with 8001 even fan nozzles calibrated to deliver 187 L/ha when the sugar beets were in the 2 leaf stage. Additional application information for these experiments is shown in Table 2.

Postemergence trials. All POST treatments were applied with a bicycle wheel sprayer pressurized with CO₂. Herbicides were applied in a 25 cm band over the row using 8001 even fan nozzles calibrated to deliver 187 L/ha when the sugar beets were in the cotyledon (COTYL) and 2 leaf (2-LF) stage. Weeds were in the cotyledon and 2 to 4 leaf growth stage when the sugar beets were in the COTYL and 2-LF growth stage, respectively. All POST treatments included a sequential application 7 days after the first application was made. Nonionic surfactant was added to triflurosulfuron alone treatments at a rate of 0.25% v/v. Triflurosulfuron plus desm & phen tank mixtures did not receive additional surfactant due to existing adjuvant in the desm & phen. Additional application information is shown in Table 3.

Table 1. Agronomic information for field experiments conducted near Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Year	Parma		Kimberly	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
Sugar beet cultivar [†]	HH 32	MH RH 83	WS 88	WS 88
Planting date	April 8	April 1	April 18	April 19
Seeds/ha	176,061	156,499	176,061	117,374

[†] HH32 cultivar from Holly Sugar Corp., P.O. Box 60, Tracy, CA 95378. MH RH 83 and WS 88 cultivars from Hilleshog Mono-hy, 11939 Sugarmill Rd., Longmont, CO 80501.

Table 2. Preplant (PPI), preemergence (PRE), and postemergence (POST) application data in field experiments, near Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Year	Parma					
	1991			1992		
Application type	PPI	PRE	POST	PPI	PRE	POST
Application date	4/1	4/9	5/10	3/31	4/3	4/28
Air temperature (C)	22	14	8	22	21	29
Soil temperature (C)	17	9	4	14	13	13
Relative humidity (%)	40	49	60	46	38	32

Year	Kimberly			
	1991		1992	
Application type	PPI/PRE	POST	PPI/PRE	POST
Application date	4/15	5/23	4/14	5/8
Air temperature (C)	13	22	18	23
Soil temperature (C)	13	16	13	18
Relative humidity (%)	54	41	41	49

Table 3. Application data for cotyledon (COTYL), 2 leaf (2-LF) and 7 days later (7d) applications near, Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Year	Parma							
	1991				1992			
Application type	COTYL	7d	2-LF	7d	COTYL	7d	2-LF	7d
Application date	4/24	5/1	5/10	5/22	4/21	4/28	4/28	5/6
Air temperature (C)	13	21	8	27	12	29	29	33
Soil temperature (C)	14	13	4	22	13	20	20	28
Relative humidity (%)	70	18	60	40	100	32	32	28

Year	Kimberly							
	1991				1992			
Application type	COTYL	7d	2-LF	7d	COTYL	7d	2-LF	7d
Application date	5/10	5/16	5/23	5/31	5/5	5/12	5/8	5/14
Air temperature (C)	11	24	22	11	23	17	24	27
Soil temperature (C)	8	17	16	9	12	13	20	24
Relative humidity (%)	50	46	41	62	60	42	49	49

Crop injury and weed control were evaluated visually 2 and 4 weeks after the last herbicide treatment was applied. Crop injury and weed control were scored on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 = no injury and 100 = complete kill. Sugar beets were cultivated two to three times beginning in May and were never hand weeded except for the hand weeded treatment. Growers often rely on hand weeding during the growing season, but the intent of these experiments was to evaluate the effect of these herbicides alone on weed control, sugar beet yield, and quality. Sugar beet roots were harvested at Kimberly from the center two rows of each plot. Subsamples were taken from each plot to determine sugar content. Plots were not harvested at Parma.

The experimental design for all studies was a randomized complete block with four replications. All data were subjected to analysis of variance procedures. Weed control data were transformed by arcsine and subjected to analysis of variance. Data from 1991 and 1992 were combined and where treatment by year interaction was significant, data from each year are presented separately. Transformation did not influence analysis of variance or mean separation for weed control data, so percentages are reported. Means were separated using Fisher's Protected LSD Test ($P = 0.05$).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Soil-applied and postemergence trials. No differences in crop injury were found between years at either Parma or Kimberly. Sugar beets were injured at Parma by cycloate and diethatyl applied PPI and followed with a tank mixture of triflurosulfuron + desmedipham and phenmedipham (desm & phen) POST, however the injury was less than 5% (data not shown).

Redroot pigweed control was evaluated only in 1991 at Parma and in both years at Kimberly (Table 4). Triflurosulfuron applied sequentially to cycloate or ethofumesate did not improve redroot pigweed control. Redroot pigweed control improved 15 to 26% when diethatyl and triflurosulfuron were applied sequentially compared to diethatyl alone. Soil-applied herbicides followed by triflurosulfuron + desm & phen POST controlled redroot pigweed 90 to 100% at both locations. The triflurosulfuron + desm & phen combination was significantly better than triflurosulfuron alone applied sequentially to cycloate and ethofumesate.

Common lambsquarters control at Parma is presented by year due to a treatment by year interaction, and is combined over years for Kimberly (Table 4). Triflurosulfuron improved common lambsquarters control 23 to 25% when applied sequentially to cycloate at Parma in

Table 4. Effect of herbicides applied preplant incorporated (PPI), preemergence (PRE) and postemergence (POST) on crop injury and weed control, near Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Treatment	Rate	Timing of Application	Weed control [†]				
			Redroot pigweed		C. lambsquarters		
			Parma	Kimberly	Parma	Kimberly	Combined
			1991	Combined [‡]	1991	1992	Combined
Check	kg ai/ha				%		
Hand weeded							
Cycloate	3.37	PPI	0	0	0	0	0
Cycloate/triflurosulfuron [§]	2.25/0.02	PPI/POST	49	66	53	69	42
Cycloate/triflurosulfuron + desm & phen [¶]	2.25/0.02 + 0.37	PPI/POST	70	67	78	73	66
Diethyl ethyl	3.37	PPI	100	96	99	90	92
Diethyl ethyl/triflurosulfuron	2.25/0.02	PPI/POST	49	73	53	3	43
Diethyl ethyl/triflurosulfuron + desm & phen	2.25/0.02 + 0.37	PPI/POST	75	87	71	19	66
Ethofumesate	1.26	PRE	90	98	89	75	87
Ethofumesate/triflurosulfuron	0.84/0.02	PRE/POST	68	66	59	21	51
Ethofumesate/triflurosulfuron + desm & phen	0.84/0.02 + 0.37	PRE/POST	64	84	66	34	64
LSD (0.05)			91	98	90	80	91
			21	15	23	21	15

[†] Weed control was evaluated 3 to 4 weeks after last herbicide treatment was applied.

[‡] Weed control data were combined for 1991 and 1992.

[§] Nonionic surfactant added at a rate of 0.25% v/v to all triflurosulfuron alone POST applications: R-11 Spreader Activator, Wilbur-Ellis Company, P.O. Box 8838, Portland, OR 97208.

[¶] Desm & phen = preformulated mixture of desmedipham and phenmedipham.

1991 and cycloate and diethatyl at Kimberly. Triflusalufuron + desm & phen in combination with all soil-applied treatments, except cycloate in both years and diethatyl in 1991, improved common lambsquarters control compared to triflusalufuron alone. The addition of desm & phen to triflusalufuron controlled common lambsquarters 80% or better with all soil-applied treatments except diethatyl in 1992.

Hairy nightshade control was evaluated at Parma only and the data were analyzed by year (Table 5). Hairy nightshade control with triflusalufuron applied sequentially to any soil-applied herbicide was no better than 78% with the exception of triflusalufuron following cycloate in 1992. Triflusalufuron + desm & phen following the soil-applied treatments controlled hairy nightshade an average of 90%.

Kochia control was evaluated at Kimberly only and the data were combined over years (Table 5). Triflusalufuron applied sequentially compared to the three soil-applied herbicides alone improved kochia control 32 to 49%. Tank mixing triflusalufuron and desm & phen further improved kochia control 51 to 67% compared to soil-applied alone.

Sugar beet yield data were analyzed by year (Table 5). Sugar content was not different among treatments in this study (data not shown). In 1991 sugar beet yield was not different in any of the soil-applied treatments alone or with triflusalufuron applied sequentially to cycloate and diethatyl compared to the check. Only diethatyl and ethofumesate followed by triflusalufuron + desm & phen had sugar beet yields equal to the hand weeded treatment. It is not known why sugar beets treated with cycloate followed by triflusalufuron + desm & phen did not yield as well as the other soil-applied treatments. In 1992, all plots treated with herbicides had higher root yields than the untreated check.

Postemergence trials. Crop injury was greatest when triflusalufuron + desm & phen was applied at 0.04 + 1.12 kg/ha at both locations (Table 6). Crop injury ranged from 1 to 36%.

Redroot pigweed control was evaluated at Parma only in 1991 and both years at Kimberly (Table 6). The Kimberly data were analyzed by year. Redroot pigweed control with desm & phen averaged 65% at Parma and 85 to 98% at Kimberly. Comparatively, redroot pigweed control was $\leq 71\%$ when triflusalufuron alone was applied at COTYL or 2-LF at Parma and Kimberly. Triflusalufuron + desm & phen tank mix applications beginning at 2-LF at Parma and Kimberly controlled redroot pigweed better than or equal to tank mix applications beginning at COTYL. In 1991, redroot pigweed control at Parma was better with triflusalufuron + desm & phen tank mixtures applied at 2-LF compared to desm & phen alone. Redroot pigweed control with desm & phen at Kimberly was as good or better than other herbicide treatments

Table 5. Effect of herbicides applied preplant incorporated (PPI), preemergence (PRE) and postemergence (POST) on weed control 3 to 4 weeks after treatment and sugar beet yield and sugar content, near Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Treatment	Rate	Timing of application	Weed control [†]				
			Parma		Kimberly	Root yield	
			Hairy nightshade	Kochia		1991	1992
1991	1992	Combined [‡]	1991	1992			
Check	kg ai/ha		0	0	0	5	1
Hand weeded			—	—	100	42	62
Cycloate	3.37	PPI	51	78	18	2	12
Cycloate/triflusaluron [§] +	2.25/0.02	PPI/POST	78	90	67	11	20
Cycloate/triflusaluron +							
desm & phen [¶]	2.25/0.02+0.37	PPI/POST	100	94	85	22	29
Diethatyl ethyl	3.37	PPI	46	15	24	3	16
Diethatyl ethyl/triflusaluron +	2.25/0.02	PPI/POST	73	53	61	7	16
Diethatyl ethyl/triflusaluron +							
desm & phen	2.25/0.02+0.37	PPI/POST	91	79	78	39	21
Ethofumesate	1.26	PRE	60	18	37	8	12
Ethofumesate/triflusaluron	0.84/0.02	PRE/POST	65	55	69	24	20
Ethofumesate/triflusaluron ±							
desm & phen	0.84/0.02+0.37	PRE/POST	91	85	88	33	26
LSD (0.05)			21	23	16	11	10

[†] Weed control was evaluated 3 to 4 weeks after last herbicide treatment was applied.

[‡] Kochia control data were combined for 1991 and 1992.

[§] Nonionic surfactant added at a rate of 0.25% v/v to all triflusaluron alone POST applications. R-11 Spreader Activator, Wilbur-Ellis Company, P.O. Box 8838, Portland, OR 97208.

[¶] Desm & phen preformulated mixture of desmedipham and phenmedipham.

Table 6. Effect of herbicides on crop injury and weed control in sugar beets, near Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Treatment	Rate	Timing of application [†]	Weed control [‡]										
			Crop injury				Redroot pigweed				C. lambsquarters		
			Parma		Kimberly		Parma		Kimberly		Parma	Kimberly	
		1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992		
Check	kg ai/ha		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Hand weeded			—	—	0	0	—	100	100	—	—	100	100
Triflusaluron [§]	0.02	COTYL & 7 d ltr	0	0	0	0	26	40	71	24	23	37	65
Triflusaluron	0.02	2-LF & 7 d ltr	0	0	2	0	56	69	34	48	11	62	42
Triflusaluron + desm & phen [*]	0.01+0.37	COTYL & 7 d ltr	0	3	1	1	67	79	99	79	90	81	87
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.01+0.37	2-LF & 7 d ltr	2	1	1	0	93	96	100	92	86	96	95
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.01+0.56	COTYL & 7 d ltr	—	—	2	6	—	91	100	—	—	96	100
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.01+0.56	2-LF & 7 d ltr	—	—	6	0	—	98	98	—	—	99	94
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.02+0.37	COTYL & 7 d ltr	0	3	0	2	67	86	100	71	91	89	98
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.02+0.37	2-LF & 7 d ltr	0	5	0	0	92	99	97	92	93	98	91
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.02+0.56	COTYL & 7 d ltr	1	1	0	6	73	81	100	78	96	88	97
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.02+0.56	2-LF & 7 d ltr	3	3	0	0	91	100	98	94	97	100	100
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.04+1.12	COTYL & 7 d ltr	1	3	4	16	79	94	100	80	97	94	100
Triflusaluron + desm & phen	0.04+1.12	2-LF & 7 d ltr	36	20	19	6	100	100	100	100	100	99	100
Desm & phen	0.37	COTYL & 7 d ltr	0	1	0	3	65	85	98	71	94	92	100
LSD (0.05)			4	8	5	6	21	13	20	18	16	12	16

[‡] Weed control was evaluated 2 to 3 weeks after last herbicide treatment was applied.

[†] COTYL = cotyledon, 7 d ltr = 7 days later and 2-LF = 2 leaf.

[§] Nonionic surfactant added at a rate of 0.25% v/v to all triflusaluron alone POST applications. R-11 Spreader Activator, Wilbur-Ellis Company, P.O. Box 8838, Portland, OR 97208.

^{*} Desm & phen = preformulated mixture of desmedipham and phenmedipham.

Table 7. Effect of herbicides on weed control, and sugar beet yield, near Parma and Kimberly, Idaho in 1991 and 1992.

Treatment	Rate kg ai/ha	Timing of application [†]	Weed control [‡]			Kimberly root yield	
			Hairy nightshade		Kochia	1991	1992
			1991	1992	Combined [§]	ton/ha	
			%				
Check			0	0	0	5	15
Hand weeded					100	68	51
Triflusalufuron*	0.02	COTYL & 7 d ltr	24	23	79	22	36
Triflusalufuron	0.02	2-LF & 7 d ltr	49	9	76	20	29
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen#	0.01 + 0.37	COTYL & 7 d ltr	72	86	88	34	35
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.01 + 0.37	2-LF & 7 d ltr	95	70	90	40	40
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen [†]	0.01 + 0.56	COTYL & 7 d ltr	—	—	93	45	31
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.01 + 0.56	2-LF & 7 d ltr	—	—	93	40	32
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.02 + 0.37	COTYL & 7 d ltr	64	90	92	40	44
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.02 + 0.37	2-LF & 7 d ltr	91	63	90	47	34
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.02 + 0.56	COTYL & 7 d ltr	70	85	93	40	40
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.02 + 0.56	2-LF & 7 d ltr	87	82	95	43	34
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.04 + 1.12	COTYL & 7 d ltr	74	93	98	52	22
Triflusalufuron + desm & phen	0.04 + 1.12	2-LF & 7 d ltr	100	100	97	48	31
Desm & phen	0.37	COTYL & 7 d ltr	70	81	81	38	21
LSD (0.05)			19	17	4	10	12

[‡] Weed control was evaluated 2 to 3 weeks after last herbicide treatment was applied.

[†] COTYL = cotyledon, 7 d ltr = 7 days later and 2-LF = 2 leaf.

[§] Kochia control data were combined for 1991 and 1992.

* Nonionic surfactant added at a rate of 0.25% v/v to all triflusalufuron alone POST applications. R-11 Spreader Activator, Wilbur-Ellis Company, P.O. Box 8838, Portland, OR 97208.

Desm & phen = preformulated mixture of desmedipham and phenmedipham.

Common lambsquarters control data were analyzed by year at both locations (Table 6). Desmedipham and phenmedipham alone control of common lambsquarters ranged from 71 to 100%. Common lambsquarters control with triflusalufuron alone at Parma and Kimberly ranged from only 11 to 65% over both years regardless of application timing. In 1991, triflusalufuron + desm & phen applied at 2-LF controlled common lambsquarters better than desm & phen alone. However, desm & phen alone was equal to all triflusalufuron + desm & phen treatments and superior to triflusalufuron alone at Kimberly in both years and Parma in 1992.

Hairy nightshade control was evaluated at Parma only and averaged 70 to 81% with desm & phen in 1991 and 1992, respectively (Table 7). Triflusalufuron alone did not control hairy nightshade in either year. Triflusalufuron + desm & phen applied at 2-LF controlled hairy nightshade equal to or better than COTYL applications including desm & phen alone in 1991 and 1992. The only exception was triflusalufuron + desm & phen at 0.02 + 0.37 kg/ha in 1992.

Data were combined over years for kochia control which was evaluated only at Kimberly (Table 6). Desmedipham and phenmedipham alone controlled kochia 81% while kochia control with triflusalufuron alone ranged from 76 to 79%. All of the tank mix treatments controlled kochia 88 to 98% and this was significantly better than desmedipham and phenmedipham alone. As mentioned previously, kochia is considered one of the most difficult weeds to control in sugar beets.

Sugar beet yield data were analyzed by year (Table 7). In 1991, desm & phen alone had sugar beet yields higher than triflusalufuron alone and equal to all triflusalufuron + desm & phen treatments except triflusalufuron + desm & phen at 0.04 + 1.12 kg/ha. In 1992, six tank mix combinations had sugar beet yields greater than desm & phen alone. Triflusalufuron alone treatments had sugar beet yields 14 to 32 ton/ha less than all tank mix treatments in 1991, but were comparable in 1992. None of the tank mix treatments yielded differently between COTYL and 2-LF applications. Sugar content was not affected by any treatment in this study (data not shown).

These experiments have shown that triflusalufuron is a potentially important new chemical for weed control in sugar beets. Following a soil-applied herbicide, triflusalufuron alone did not control redroot pigweed, common lambsquarters, hairy nightshade, or kochia as effectively as triflusalufuron + desm & phen tank mixtures. Without soil-applied herbicides, weed control with triflusalufuron + desm & phen combinations was better than triflusalufuron alone. Compared to desm & phen alone, the tank mixture improved the consistency of weed

control and controlled weeds at a later sugar beet growth stage which corresponded to larger weeds. Sugar beets appear to be very tolerant to triflurosulfuron at rates where weed control remains efficacious. Weed control with triflurosulfuron + phen & desm at 0.01 + 0.37 kg/ha was as effective as the higher rates used. The effectiveness of triflurosulfuron for controlling kochia in these experiments demonstrates the benefit of this herbicide.

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