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**Weed Control with Imazaquin and Pendimethalin around Newly Planted Shrub and Tree Seedlings**

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Weed Control with Imazaquin and Pendimethalin around Newly Planted Shrub and Tree Seedlings

Keywords
Keeping up with research; SRL 138 (Mar. 2003); Weed control; Imazaquin; Pendimethalin; Shrub seedlings; Tree seedlings

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Herbicide Treatment | Survival (%) | Height (in.) | Damage 1
---|---|---|---
Imazaquin (0.123 lb a.i./acre)  | 89ab 1 | 13.0c | Slight
Imazaquin (0.245 lb a.i./acre)  | 91b | 13.4bc | Slight
Pendimethalin (1.98 lb a.i./acre)  | 91a | 14.3ab | Slight
Pendimethalin (3.96 lb a.i./acre)  | 90a | 15.4a | Slight
Imazaquin + pendimethalin (0.124 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre)  | 92a | 14.0bc | Slight
Imazaquin + pendimethalin (0.248 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre)  | 91a | 14.2abc | Slight

Note: Trade names are used to identify products. No endorsement is intended, nor is any criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

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Table 3. Survival, height, and damage of treated plants in the 1999 study.

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Wayne A. Geyer, Walter H. Fick, and Eric Rhodenbaugh

Vegetation management is an important component for successful establishment of woody plants for riparian buffers, windbreaks, aesthetics or forest plantings in the Great Plains region. Reducing herbaceous competition improves survival and growth of the desired woody species. Competition control strategies include cultivation, herbicide applications, and mulches. Many herbicides have been evaluated and approved for use in woody crops over the past five decades and new products are continually under development. Problems with using herbicides include lack of effectiveness throughout the growing season and target plant resistance to the chemicals. Two products have recently been introduced that show promise for release of woody species. These are imazaquin (SCEPTER® 70 DG) and pendimethalin (PENDULUM®). Imazaquin is registered for use in controlling weeds when applied before the bud swell stage and over-the-top of actively growing hybrid poplar plantations (1, 3, 4). It can be used in combination with pendimethalin in dormant plantings (2).

The objective of these studies was to compare weed control effectiveness and herbicide tolerance of selected woody plants to imazaquin and pendimethalin when applied alone or in combination as a dormant season over-spray. Survival and stem growth were assessed on several woody plant species following herbicide applications.
Weed Control With Imazaquin And Pendimethalin Around Newly Planted Shrub And Tree Seedlings

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Vegetation management is an important component for successful establishment of woody plants for riparian buffers, windbreaks, aesthetics or forest plantings in the Great Plains region. Reducing herbaceous competition improves survival and growth of the desired woody species. Competition control strategies include cultivation, herbicide applications, and mulches. Many herbicides have been evaluated and approved for use in woody crops over the past five decades and new products are continually under development. Problems with using herbicides include lack of effectiveness throughout the growing season and target plant resistance to the chemicals. Two products have recently been introduced that show promise for release of woody species. These are imazaquin (SCEPTER® 70 DG) and pendimethalin (PENDULUM®). Imazaquin is registered for use in controlling weeds when applied before the bud swell stage and over-the-top of actively growing hybrid poplar plantations (1, 3, 4). It can be used in combination with pendimethalin in dormant plantings (2).

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Table 3. Survival, height, and damage frequency of treated woody plants in the 1999 study.

| Source                          | Degrees of freedom | Survival (%) | Height (in.) | Damage |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Replication                     | 2                  | 69ab         | 13.0         | Slight |
| Treatment                       | 5                  | 81b          | 13.4         | Slight |
| Species                         | 14                 | 91a          | 15.4         | Slight |
| Treatment by species            | 70                 | 91a          | 14.2         | Slight |
| Imazaquin (0.123 lb a.i./acre)   |                    | 89ab         | 13.0         | Slight |
| Imazaquin (0.245 lb a.i./acre)   |                    | 81b          | 13.4         | Slight |
| Pendimethalin (0.98 lb a.i./acre)|                    | 91a          | 14.3         | Slight |
| Pendimethalin (3.96 lb a.i./acre)|                    | 90a          | 15.4         | Slight |
| Imazaquin + pendimethalin       | (0.124 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre) | 92a          | 14.0         | Slight |
| Imazaquin + pendimethalin       | (0.248 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre) | 91a          | 14.2         | Slight |

1 ns = not significant
2 * = significant at p<0.05
3 ** = significant at p<0.01
4 About 50% silver maple had red leaves, 40% golden currant exhibit stunting, and 30% Oriental arborvitae had brown leaves.

Values in the same column followed by different letters are significant at p<0.05.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was partially supported by BASF Corp., Research Triangle Park, NC. Contribution no. 03-307-S from the Kansas Agricultural Experimental Station.

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RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS

Additional information may be found in Kansas Forest Service publications: Chemical Weed Control in Tree Plantings, NY-656. Tree Planting Guide, L-596. Conservation Tree Planting Schedule, L-671.

These publications are available through a local K-State Research and Extension office or on the Web at: http://www.oznet.ksu.edu.

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Two studies were conducted near Manhattan, KS. The first was initiated in 1999 on newly planted shrubs and trees; the second in 2002, three years after planting. The study site is on alluvial land and was well-cultivated for several years prior to planting. The soil is silty clay loam having a pH of 7.3. All species were planted on March 1, 1999. Six-inch cuttings of poplar clones were planted; seedlings were planted of other species. Species/clones studied were:

- black walnut (Juglans nigra)
- choke cherry (Prunus virginiana)
- fragrant sumac (Rhus aromatica)
- golden currant (Ribes odoratum)
- hackberry (Celtis occidentalis)
- Oriental arborvitae (Thuja orientalis)
- ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa)
- eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis)
- Russian mulberry (Morus alba var. tatarica)
- silver maple (Acer saccharinum) and
- Poplar clones:
  - P-18 96.18 Populus deltoides
  - P-26 107.14 Populus deltoides x nigra
  - P-48 91.01-10 Populus deltoides
  - P-56 EUGENE Populus deltoides x nigra

The study was initiated in 1999 using a randomized design with three replications. Subplots of five of each species were located randomly in each plot, with six rows per replication for a total of 18 rows. Rows were 12 feet apart and trees were planted at one foot spacing. No weeds were present at the time of planting. No untreated controls were established because survival and growth without weed control would be minimal. In the second study (2002), the same planting as in 1999 was used for evaluating herbicide treatments. Herbicides were applied on March 15, 1999 for study 1 and April 5, 2002 for study 2. All applications were done with a CO2-powered research sprayer set at 30 psi (Figure 1). Chemicals and rates applied were imazaquin at 0.123 + 0.245 lb a.i./acre, pendimethalin at 1.98 and 3.96 lb a.i./acre, and imazaquin + pendimethalin at 0.124 + 4.0 and 0.248 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre.
The study was initiated in 1999 using a randomized design with three replications. Samples of five of each species were located randomly in each plot, with six rows per replication. These were planted at one foot spacing. No weeds were present at the time of planting. No untreated controls were established because survival and growth without weed control would be minimal. In the second study (2001), the same planting as in 1999 was used for evaluating herbicide treatments. Herbsicides were applied on March 15, 1999 for study 1 and April 5, 2002 for study 2. All applications were done with a CO2-powered research sprayer set at 30 psi (Figure 1).

Table 1. Weed control (percent bare ground) of the six chemical treatments.

| Herbicide Treatment            | Pigweed spp. | Foxtail spp. | Lambquarters | Pigweed spp. | Foxtail spp. | Lambquarters | Pigweed spp. | Foxtail spp. | Lambquarters | Pigweed spp. | Foxtail spp. | Lambquarters |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1999 Results                  | 90 days      | 90 days      | 130 days     | 90 days      | 90 days      | 130 days     | 90 days      | 90 days      | 130 days     | 90 days      | 90 days      | 130 days     |
| Imazaquin 0.123 lb a.i./acre   | 50c           | 0c           | 38b          | Not applied  | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Imazaquin 0.245 lb a.i./acre   | 96a           | 0c           | 88b          | 95           | 100          | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Pendimethalin 1.98 lb a.i./acre| 72b           | 82b          | 100a         | Not applied  | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Pendimethalin 3.96 lb a.i./acre| 90a           | 98a          | 90           | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| Imazaquin + pendimethalin     | 92a           | 95a          | 100a         | Not applied  | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |

1 Values in the same row followed by different letters are significant at P < 0.05.

Note: After 130 days there was 98% foxtail in the mow-only plots and 80% foxtail and 20% other grasses in the tillage-only plot, which was tiled in March and June.

After 130 days the pendimethalin-herbicides applied in 2002 produced good control of pigweed and foxtail, but other grasses invaded, including barnyardgrass and crabgrass (Table 1). Annual grasses might be expected to occur later in the season, as seen 130 days after treatment, as the average half-life of pendimethalin is 44 days.

Survival of woody plants (1999 study only) was significantly different for both treatments and species with no significant species by treatment interaction (Table 2); thus, survival data for herbicides are averaged over species, and data for species are averaged over treatment. All treatments had at least 60% survival; the high rate of imazaquin resulted in low survival (Table 3). Survival of the other treatments averaged 96% or greater, indicating little difference among the six herbicide treatments.

Survival by species is not presented in detail due to the large number of species tested and the similarity in survival among species. When averaged across treatments, Poplar clone P-9 was the tallest and reduced the shortest. Only the height of Poplar clone P-9 was reduced significantly by any of the herbicide treatments. When averaged across species, both levels of imazaquin and imazaquin + pendimethalin reduced total height significantly, but height reductions were slight (Table 3).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Control of both broadleaf and grassy weeds is necessary for successful establishment and growth of tree plantings in the Great Plains region. Imazaquin alone may not control grasses sufficiently and needs to be combined with another herbicide, especially in the absence of adequate early spring precipitation. Pendimethalin alone and in combination with imazaquin, as applied in this study, can be used for controlling weeds with little damage noted 90 days after treatment to the woody plants tested. About 88% had slight damage or no damage, and 1% had slight damage, with slight reddening of the new leaves on arborvitae. Only one of the four Populus clones tested, P-26, and golden currant, showed any substantive reduction in height, and survival was good for all species. These results show that any of the four herbicide treatments applied during the dormant season on the 15 currently available woody plant species studied were effective in controlling weeds while causing little or no damage to the plants.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After 90 days greater than 80% control was achieved for both broadleafs and grasses when using the high rate of pendimethalin or both rates of imazaquin + pendimethalin in both years. Imazaquin alone did not control foxtail in 1999, but gave good weed control results in 2002 (Table 1). Pendimethalin resulted in at least 75% bare ground at low and high rates (Table 1). The lack of adequate rainfall in March 1999 (2.68 in.) may account for the poor foxtail control in study 1. The 30-year-average rainfall in March measured at nearby Tuttle Creek Lake, KS, is 2.20 in. Precipitation was 3.03 in. for April 2002, slightly above the 30-year average of 2.77 in. (Kansas Weather Data Library, a service of K-State Research and Extension). Adequate soil moisture within 7 days after application of imazaquin is necessary for optimal weed control (1). The high rate of pendimethalin, alone or in combination with imazaquin, resulted in better early results in spite of the relatively dry early spring in 1999 (Figure 2).

Table 1. Weed control (percent bare ground) of the six chemical treatments.

|                    | 1999 Results |          |          | 2002 Results |          |          |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
|                    | 90 days      | 90 days  | 130 days | 90 days      | 130 days | 90 days  |
| **Herbicide Treatment** | Pigweed spp. | Foxtail spp. | Lambsquarters | Pigweed spp. | Foxtail spp. | Escape spp. |
| Imazaquin 0.123 lb a.i./acre | 50c         | 0c       | 38c       | Not applied   | -         | -         |
| Imazaquin 0.245 lb a.i./acre | 96a         | 0c       | 88b       | 95           | 100       | 65        |
| Pendimethalin 1.98 lb a.i./acre | 72b         | 82b      | 100a      | Not applied   | -         | -         |
| Pendimethalin 3.96 lb a.i./acre | 90a         | 98a      | 100a      | 98           | 90        | 90        |
| Imazaquin + pendimethalin 0.124 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre | 92a         | 95a      | 100a      | Not applied   | -         | -         |
| Imazaquin + pendimethalin 0.248 + 4.0 lb a.i./acre | 95a         | 94a      | 100a      | 95           | 100       | 50        |

* Values in the same raw followed by different letters are significant at P. 18 had the least survival at 64%, and was significantly less than ponderosa pine, hybrid poplar P-48 and P-56 (79%), and all others, which had survival of 94%. Survival of ponderosa pine and poplar clones P-48 and P-56 were also significantly less than the remaining species.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Control of both broadleaf and grasy weeds is necessary for successful establishment and growth of tree plantings in the Great Plains region. Imazaquin alone may not control grasses sufficiently and needs to be combined with another herbicide, especially in the absence of adequate early spring precipitation. Pendimethalin alone and in combination with imazaquin, as applied in this study, can be used for controlling weeds with little damage noted 90 days after treatment to the woody plants tested. About 88% had slight damage or no damage, and 7% had slight damage, with slight reddening of silver maple and some brown leaves on arborvitae. Only one of the four Populus clones tested, P-26, and golden currant, showed any substantive reduction in height, and survival was good for all species. These results show that any of the four pendimethalin treatments applied during the dormant season on the 15 cloned species of woody plants studied were effective in controlling weeds while causing little or no damage to the plants.