CONTROLLING SMELLMELON AND PIGWEED IN COTTON

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SUMMARY:

In this demonstration, smellmelon, pigweed and morningglory can effectively be controlled with 0.1 oz/A Envoke + 22 oz/A Roundup at a cost of $12.26/A or 0.6 oz/A Staple + 22 oz/A Roundup at a cost of $16.56/A. While Roundup alone provides fair to good control, it is inadequate for season-long control and a residual herbicide is needed.

OBJECTIVES:

Smellmelon is a weed that causes economic problems with crop farmers limiting yields and reducing the quality and price of grain. This demonstration is established to identify which herbicide products provide effective and economical control of smellmelons and cockleburs.

MATERIALS/METHODS:

This herbicide demonstration was established on Stoneville 5599RRBT cotton which was planted on March 31, 2005 in 38 inch rows. Six herbicides were applied on April 28, 2005 along with an untreated check. The herbicides were applied over the cotton rows with a spider sprayer. Herbicides were applied with 11.5 gallons per acre of water through 11003AI spray tips. The pressure was 25 pounds per square inch and sprayer speed was 5 mph. The plots were 4 rows wide and 40 feet long. The previous herbicides applied were 8 oz/A DualMag + 0.3 oz/A Staple in band followed by 16 oz/A Roundup Herbicides are listed in Table 1. Visual evaluations were made about 21 days after treating.

RESULT/DISCUSSIONS:

The plots were visually rated on percent weed control about 21 days after treatment. Plots receiving no herbicide treatment were nearly 100 covered in weeds. Control of smellmelon ranged from 17 - 95 percent. Control of pigweed ranged from 5 - 100 percent while the cost ranged from $4.65 - 26.05 per acre. Using the highest priced product may not always be the best investment.

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DISCLAIMER CLAUSE:

Trade names of commercial products used in this report are included only for better understanding and clarity. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M University System is implied. Readers should realize that results from one experiment do not represent conclusive evidence that the same response would occur where conditions vary.

Table 1. Best post-emergence weed control for Texas Smellmelon and Pigweed in Roundup Ready cotton; Texas Cooperative Extension, J.D. Schovajsa Farm, Victoria County, 2005.

	% Control		
Treatment	Smellmelon	Pigweed	$ Cost/A
0.1 oz/A Envoke + 22 oz/A RU[1]	90.8	91.7	12.26
1.2 oz/A Staple + 8 oz/A MSMA/NIS	67.5	40.0	26.05
0.6 oz/A Staple + 22 oz/A RU	95.0	100.0	16.56
22 oz/A RU	68.8	76.3	5.16
20 oz/A MSMA + NIS[2]	17.5	5.0	4.65
Untreated Check	0	0	0

[1] Roundup Original Max (bulk glyphosate $1.89/A cheaper)
NIS = $2.31/pt[2]