Weed management in conventional, no-till, and transgenic corn with mesotrione combinations and other herbicides

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Dissertation is submitted to the Faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy
in
Weed Science

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April 19, 2002
Blacksburg, VA

Key words: mesotrione, corn weed control, triketone

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Weed management programs in corn typically include herbicides applied both preemergence (PRE) and postemergence (POST) for season-long weed control. Mesotrione is a new triketone herbicide registered for PRE and POST control of broadleaf weeds in corn. Triketone herbicides function through inhibition of the enzyme p-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase. Mesotrione applied PRE did not adequately control common lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album* L.), smooth pigweed (*Amaranthus hybridus* L.), common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.), or morningglory species (*Ipomoea* spp.) in conventional tillage corn, but control of these weeds was generally improved in no-till corn. Mesotrione combinations with acetochlor did not always improve control of broadleaf weeds, but increased control of smooth pigweed and giant foxtail (*Setaria faberi* Herrm.). POST applications of mesotrione at 105 g ai/ha controlled most annual broadleaf weeds except common ragweed, but did not control giant foxtail. The addition of atrazine at 280 g ai/ha to mesotrione, however, improved control of common ragweed. Tank-mixtures of glyphosate, imazethapyr, or imazethapyr plus imazapyr with mesotrione improved control of giant foxtail in herbicide-resistant corn. Corn injury was usually low from PRE and POST mesotrione applications in non-genetically modified corn, however, greater injury occurred in glyphosate-resistant varieties. Corn treated with mesotrione combinations generally yielded similar to corn treated with commercial standards. Mesotrione applied POST also suppressed the perennial weeds horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense* L.) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.). Additions of atrazine increased the rate of plant tissue necrosis on these perennial weeds as compared to the slower bleaching symptoms associated with mesotrione applied alone. In general, Canada thistle plants were more susceptible to mesotrione in the rosette stage of growth than when bolting. Absorption, translocation, and metabolism of $^{14}$C mesotrione in Canada thistle was generally low. However, higher levels of absorption and translocation and lower root metabolism of mesotrione in rosette stage plants compared to
bolting stage plants may explain why Canada thistle is more susceptible to mesotrione in the rosette stage of growth. The changes in symptomology and increased control from mesotrione plus atrazine tank-mixtures is likely due to the interrelationship between the modes of action of atrazine and mesotrione.
Acknowledgements

I realize that throughout my life God has truly blessed me with great friends, family, teachers, and advisors. For these people and other blessings in my life I will always be thankful. I would like to thank Dr. Henry Wilson for his guidance and support throughout this project and I greatly appreciate the opportunity he gave me to pursue this degree. Dr. Wilson always took time to help his graduate students and its these time sacrifices that I will always appreciate. I would also like to thank Drs. Dan Brann, Scott Hagood, Kriton Hatzios, and Dave Orcutt for serving on my graduate committee and for giving me insight and advice throughout my graduate studies. Even though he did not serve on my committee, Dr. Dan Poston contributed a great deal to my Weed Science Education and I am truly better for having known him. Furthermore, you can not talk about education without mentioning Tommy Hines. Tommy taught me a lot about field work and lot about friendship and I thank the whole Hines family for looking out for me. I would especially like to thank the secretarial staff at the Eastern Shore AREC and in the PPWS department (Arleta Boyd, Nancy Davis, Judy Fielder, and Barbara Haxter) for all the help you have given me over the years and I know it has not been easy. Also, Brian Trader, Brian Wilson, Brian Johnson, Corey Whaley, Andy Bailey, Steve King, Kevin Bradley, Ivan Morozov, and Art Graves- I thank you for your assistance and insight in my graduate studies, but mostly I thank you for your friendship and your patience. Finally, I also thank the people who got me started in pesticide research, namely Drs. R. J. Stipes, Anton Baudoin, C.L. Foy, Mrs. Jean Ratliff, and Mr. Harold “Bo” Witt. Finally, I thank the faculty and staff at the Eastern Shore AREC for their encouragement and guidance throughout this process, especially Dr. Steve Phillips, Dr. Tom Kuhar, and Mr. Tommy Custis.

There are also people from industry who have encouraged or supported my work and for that I will always be grateful. I would like to thank Syngenta Crop Protection for allowing me the freedom to evaluate mesotrione in various and numerous studies. In particular, I would like to thank Drs. Garry Schnappinger, Amy Agi, Dirk Drost, Mr. Brent Lackey, Mr. Chris Munsterman, Mr. Dave Bartlett, Mr. Matt Cordingly, and Miss Nasreen Cullen. I would especially like to thank Mr. Gavin Hall for his expertise and guidance in the lab and for teaching
me how to play snooker. I would also like to thank Dr. Susan Rick, Dr. Ray Forney, and Mr. Don Ganske of DuPont for their guidance and advise.

Most importantly I would like to thank the people who tolerate me after working hours. First of all no one could find a better friend or roommate than Rob Richardson. You welcomed me into the fraternity, you got me started in graduate school, you helped me obtain my first job in research, and you even laughed at my really bad jokes. I would especially like to thank my family for their support, guidance, and most all of for not asking me anymore when I going to get a real job. To the Pomeroy's, the Atwoods, the Rettburg's and the Stricklands, I truly appreciate all that you have done for me over the years. I could not have gotten to this point in my life without all of you in it. I want to especially thank my brother Brian for all his help and support. I could not have made it without you big brother. The people I thank most of all are my parents. Without your guidance and support I would not be the person I am today and I truly hope you know how much I appreciate the sacrifices you have made for me.