

Sugarcane Spring Weed Control Programs

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Provided below is a table taken from the 2011 Sugarcane Weed Management Guide showing expected weed control from herbicides used in sugarcane. Also provided are herbicide costs and information for planning weed control programs.

TABLE 1. EXPECTED WEED CONTROL WITH SUGARCANE HERBICIDES APPLIED IN-CROP.

Weed control estimates represent 28 to 35 days after application of preemergence herbicides and 14 to 21 days after application of postemergence herbicides at the high end of the rate range. A value of 0 = no control and 10 = 100% control.

	Seedling Johnsongrass	Rhizome Johnsongrass	Itchgrass (Raouigrass)	Bermudagrass	Browntop Panicum	Annual Grasses	Morningglory (Tie-vines)	Other Broadleaf Weeds	Nutsedges	Doveweed	Winter Grasses	Winter Broadleaf Weeds
Preemergence Application:												
Atrazine/others	2	0	2	0	4	5	8	9	2	5	8	9
Authority MTZ	5	0	2	1	5	5	9	8	7	-	5	8
Callisto	2	0	0	0	5	5	7	8	2	8	3	7
Command	8	2	8	6	8	8	3	3	2	-	7	2
Command plus Direx	9	2	8	8	9	9	6	8	2	-	7	8
Diuron/Direx/others	7	0	5	1	6	6	6	8	2	3	7	8
DuPont K-4	8	2	7	7	8	9	7	8	5	9	8	8
Prowl/others	8	2	8	2	8	9	2	2	3	0	6	2
Prowl plus DuPont K-4	8	2	8	5	9	9	7	8	3	-	7	8
Prowl plus Metribuzin/Sencor/others	9	2	8	5	9	9	8	9	4	-	8	8
Metribuzin/Sencor/others	9	0	2	6	6	9	8	9	5	-	8	8
Sinbar	9	0	2	8	3	9	7	7	5	-	6	5
Spartan	4	0	2	0	3	4	9	8	7	-	4	8
Treflan/Trifluralin/others ⁴	9	6	9	7	9	9	2	2	5	-	8	2
Valor	3	0	2	0	3	4	8	9	2	-	8	9
Postemergence Application:												
Atrazine/others	2	0	2	0	2	6	9	9	2	7	4	7
Callisto	0	0	1	0	4	4	7	8	2	-	-	8
Clarity/Vision/others	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	3	6	0	9
Diuron/Direx/others	6	2	5	0	5	8	7	8	2	-	6	6
Gramoxone Inteon/ Paraquat/others	8	2	8	4	8	9	8	8	2	8	8	8
Permit/others	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	8	0	0	0
Spartan	2	0	2	0	2	4	9	8	7	-	3	8
Valor	2	0	2	0	3	4	9	8	2	5	2	8
Weedmaster/Brash/others	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	3	6	0	9
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	8	6	0	8
2,4-D/others	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	3	6	0	9



Specific Weed Problems, Herbicide Costs, and Control Measures

- **Clovers, medics, vetch, or dock** - apply Weedmaster, Brash, others
- **Ryegrass, rescuegrass, or timothygrass** - apply Gramoxone Inteon/Paraquat/others
- **Bermudagrass** - apply Command + Direx or Sencor; DuPont K4; Metribuzin/Sencor/others; or Treflan/Trifluralin/others (Note: For Command bleaching/whitening of sugarcane foliage and stunting can occur if the crop is emerged at application)
- **Itchgrass (Raoulgrass) and seedling johnsongrass** – apply Command; Prowl/Prowl H₂O/others; or Treflan/trifluralin/others either alone or in combination with other herbicides
- **Bermudagrass and itchgrass** – apply Metribuzin/Sencor/others plus Prowl/Prowl H₂O/others; Command + Direx; or DuPont K4

Recommended herbicides, use rates, and per acre costs based on 2011 prices. For some herbicides price ranges are provided to reflect differences among suppliers.

Herbicide	Price/Unit	Broadcast Rate/A	Broadcast Cost/A	Band Rate Cost/A (36" band/72" row)
Gramoxone Inteon	\$29 - 31/gal	3 pt	\$10.89 - 11.64	\$5.45 - 5.82
Prowl/others	\$25 - 28/gal	2.4-3.6 qt	\$15.00 - 22.50 @ \$25/gal \$16.80 - 25.20 @ \$28/gal	\$7.50 - 11.25 @ \$25/gal \$8.40 - 12.60 @ \$28/gal
Metribuzin/Sencor/others	\$9.75 - 12.00/lb	2-3 lb	\$19.50 - 29.25 @ \$9.75/lb \$24.00 - \$36.00 @ \$12/lb	\$9.75 - 14.63 @ \$9.75/lb \$12.00 - \$18.00 @ \$12/lb
Atrazine/others	\$13 - 15/gal	2-4 qt	\$6.50 - 13.00 @ \$13/gal \$7.50 - 15.00 @ \$15/gal	\$3.25 - 16.50 @ \$13/gal \$3.75 - 7.50 @ \$15/gal
DuPont K-4	\$6.90/lb	3-4 lb	\$20.70 - 27.60 @ \$6.90/lb	\$10.35 - 13.80 @ \$6.90/lb
Diuron/Direx/others	\$4.60 - 5.95/lb	3.0 - 3.75 lb	\$13.80 - 17.25 @ \$4.60/lb \$17.85 - 22.31 @ \$5.95/lb	\$6.90 - 8.63 @ \$4.60/lb \$8.93 - 11.16 @ \$5.95/lb
Weedmaster/Brash/others	\$18 - 20/gal	0.5 - 1 qt	\$2.25 - 4.50 @ \$18/gal \$2.50 - 5.00 @ \$20/gal	\$1.13 - 2.25 @ \$18/gal \$1.25 - 2.50 @ \$20/gal
2,4-D (3.8L formulation)	\$14 - 15/gal	0.5 - 1.5 qt	\$1.75 - 5.25 @ \$14/gal \$1.88 - 5.63 @ \$15/gal	\$0.88 - 2.63 @ \$14/gal \$0.94 - 2.81 @ \$15/gal
Command 3ME	\$125/gal	2.5 - 3 pt	\$39.06 - 46.89	\$19.53 - 23.45

Using the information provided on weed control and herbicide prices, costs can be developed for various scenarios. A meeting with your county agent, consultant, or crop advisor may help to develop or to fine tune a weed control program specific to your needs.

Note: For those concerned with *bermudagrass*, research has shown greater control when Sencor or Command + Direx were applied in early February vs. early March and herbicides suppressed bermudagrass growth for 4 to 6 weeks. Sugar yield, however, was greater when Sencor was applied in March than when applied in February (Caleb Dalley, USDA).

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