Sicklepod

Senna obtusifolia

Introduction

Sicklepod, also known as Arsenic weed, is a weed pest in some cane-growing areas from Mossman to Sarina. The weed competes vigorously with sugarcane, reduces yield and causes harvesting problems. It is present in severe proportions in the Herbert Valley.

Problem

- Estimated to infest 25,000 ha of the 60,000 ha under sugarcane in the Herbert alone.
- Mature plants can produce upwards of 10,000 seeds and can remain viable in the soil for 10 years.
- Older plants and more stressed plants from either wet or dry conditions become more difficult to control.
- Other chemicals have been tested with poor or minimal control.

Description

- Vigorous growing, very competitive woody shrub.
- Grows to between 1.5-2.5 m tall.
- Leaves divided into three opposite pairs.
- Flowers yellow, small with five petals.
- Seed pod is long, slender and sickle shaped.

Chemical control

- Tordon 75-D is registered for sicklepod control in sugarcane in Queensland.

Application information

- Best control by thoroughly wetting the plant.
- Ground application is the most effective and should use between 200-250 L water/ha.
- Application by aircraft must not use less than 50 L water/ha.
- Chemical rates vary for different size plants (shown below).
- Oil additives such as DowElanco Uptake to spray mix will improve control.

Points to remember

- Older plants may not be completely killed but seeding will be reduced.
- Clean machinery after use in affected areas.
- Established seed populations may take years to control.

Further information

For more information about controlling Sicklepod on your farm please contact your local adviser.

### Crop Weed controlled Rate/ha Critical comments

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| Sugarcane grown from Mossman to Sarina | Sicklepod / Arsenic Weed | Weeds less than 0.5 m in height: Apply 0.7 L Tordon 75-D + 0.8 L 2,4D amine (625 g/L) with Uptake™ Spraying Oil at 1 L/200 L, or BS-1000 at 200 mL/200 L of spray mixture. | Uptake spraying oil contains a non-ionic surfactant. **Do not add extra surfactant.**

Good coverage of the plant is essential. Apply at an early growth stage before flowering.

Adhere to the withholding period: **Do not harvest for 8 weeks after application.** Use a minimum of 200 L/ha water volume when using a ground boom.

Do not apply 2,4D to sensitive varieties. Must be applied using coarse to very coarse droplets. |

|                                  |                      | Weeds 0.5-1.0 m in height: Apply 1 L Tordon 75-D + 0.8 L 2,4D amine (625 g/L) with Uptake™ Spraying Oil at 1 L/200 L, or BS-1000 at 200 mL/200 L of spray mixture. | |
|                                  |                      | Weeds greater than 1.0 m in height: Apply 1.5 L Tordon 75-D + 0.8 L 2,4D amine (625 g/L) with Uptake™ Spraying Oil at 1 L/200 L, or BS-1000 at 200 mL/200 L of spray mixture. | |