

**STATUS OF WESTERN NURSERY HERBICIDE SCREENING PROJECT**

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I will present an overview of our Western Nursery Herbicide Screening Study. It is general knowledge among nurserymen that herbicides can provide effective and very economical nursery weed control. However, until this study was initiated no systematic program to document their safety, effectiveness and economy over a broad geographical area in the West was undertaken.

There are 29 nurseries cooperating in this study: 14 in Washington, Oregon, and California, our Pacific Coast phase; 9 in Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado, our Rocky Mountain-Great Basin phase; and 6 in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma, our Great Plains phase.

This is the third year of the study, the final year in the Pacific Coast phase. In the next paper, Pete Owston will report on the results of the Pacific Coast phase through the second year. The first year of the study is devoted to screening of registered and promising herbicides for conifer and hardwood selectivity and weed control. The second year, testing is concentrated on those herbicides that demonstrated good selectivity and weed control. Optimum rates, use patterns, and information on soil residues are developed. During the third year, this season in the Pacific Coast phase, the best weed control programs are tested on an operational basis where information on costs and benefits can be compared. Russ Ryker of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station is currently conducting the second year in the Rocky Mountain Great Basin phase and Larry Abrahamson, Applied Forestry Research Institute, Syracuse, New York, is in the first year of the Great Plains phase.

After two years of this study, we already have results. Based upon the first two years' work on the Pacific Coast and supported by the first years' work in the Rocky Mountain-Great Basin segment, bifenox was registered in the States of Washington, Oregon and California.

These results could have come this early only with the foresight of those initiating the project, the research project leader's efforts, and the excellent cooperation we are receiving from the nurseries involved in the project. Also, Mobil Chemical Company must be commended for their interest and timely efforts in the registration of this specialty use of their product.

Two other herbicides look promising for registration next year in the Pacific Coast Area - DCPA and napropamide. They may not be registered for use over as many species of conifers as is bifenoX because they do not appear to have as great a margin of safety on one or two species of conifers while still giving good weed control. Pending this year's results from the Rocky Mountain-Great Basin area, one or more of these herbicides may also be ready for registration in this area next year.

I have not had any feedback whether anyone from California, Oregon or Washington had an opportunity to use bifenoX operationally this season. If so, what do the nursery beds look like? Has the performance of the product met your expectations?

Only with feedback from the users can a study as I have described respond to your needs. As with all good things this study will come to an end. At the end of the third year a slide tape presentation, plus a nursery herbicide manual, will be produced to provide users with "how to" information. Hopefully, there will be interest enough that nurseries will use our basic study plan to optimize their use of herbicides. Technical assistance is available from Forest Service Regional Office personnel to continue this work.

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