Weed Management at ArborGen, South Carolina SuperTree Nursery

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Weed management is vital to producing healthy hardwood seedlings. Several methods are available to each nursery, and it is common knowledge that what works for one situation may not work for another. The weed control methods used in nursery beds of hardwood species at the South Carolina SuperTree Nursery (Blenheim) are listed below.

Weed Control

Pre-Emergent Treatments

Nursery beds are fumigated with methyl bromide at a rate of 450 kg/ha (400 lb/ac). No pre-emergent herbicides are applied to certain spring sown species or to any fall sown species. In spring, Goal® 2XL is applied at a rate of 1.6 L/ha (22 oz/ac) over oaks (*Quercus* spp.).

Post-Emergent Treatments

In our hardwood seedbeds, contract hand-weeding crews control weeds until Pendulum® 3.3 EC and Endurance® can be applied at the label rate. Our general rotation is Endurance® (1.1 kg/ha [1 lb/ac]), Pendulum® 3.3 EC (4.7 L/ha [2 qt/ac]), and Endurance® at the previous rate. These treatments are usually sufficient to control weeds for the rest of the growing season.

Summary

Each nursery uses different weed control methods. Varying conditions and species dictate which methods work best. Weed control is necessary to produce a healthy crop.