

CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL IN QALANDRI COTTON

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ABSTRACT

The chemical weed control experiment in Qalandri cotton was conducted at Latif Experimental Farm, Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam during 1983. Different herbicides were applied as post-emergence application. All the annual weeds were controlled by the weedicide treatments and none of the weedicide showed any adverse effect on perennial weeds, except Gramoxone and Gesagard. Satisfactory control of all kinds of weeds was obtained by two applications of Gramoxone and Gesagard and three times hand weeding.

The highest seed cotton yield was recorded from hand weeded (three times) treatment 2023 kg/ha). Gesagard 7.5 lbs product per hectare (2808 kg/ha). Gramoxone 5.0 pint product per hectare (2742 kg/ha), similarly Gramoxone 2.5 pint product per hectare (2520 kg/ha), Gesagard 5.0 pint product per hectare (2478 kg/ha) and lowest yield received from no weeding than other remaining weedicides. But Duncan's range test indicated that there was no difference between Gramoxone, Gesagard and hand weeded treatments.

INTRODUCTION

Cotton is the cash and silver fibre crop of Pakistan and major source of foreign exchange of country. With the provisions of facilities, like improved varieties, efficient use of fertilizer, supply of irrigation water and optimum plant protection measures have made it possible to increase cotton production. This increased production is not high as of other cotton growing countries of the world. The reasons for low yield may be many and attributed to several factors. Weed infestation is one of them which reduces the yield considerably. Buchana and Burns (1970) and Klingman (1961) reported that competition of weeds starts in the beginning of cotton growth or even the weeds germinate before the emergence of cotton and this competition becomes serious after first irrigation. Wide inter-row spaces of cotton, also favour of growth. This is a reason that before cotton plant reach the stage of covering space, weed cover the ground and shed over young cotton plants and this after the growth of main crop and due to poor growth the yield are reduced to great extent. Makhdoom, *et al.*, (1973) reported that about 21 weeds species