Strategies in weed management

By Ricky Kong, S. Agronomist, Rimbunan Sawit Berhad The challenge for the planter is to prevent the invasion of noxious weeds into both planted and unplanted areas, and to manage the cover so that it does not compete with the crop or interfere with plantation management operations.

Think Ecology, Efficacy, Efficiency



Keep the soft grasses, get rid of noxious weeds out of the palm circles.



Keep weeds at the drains side and stacking rows



Use non-chemical weed control to the fullest



Cattle grazing

Use non-chemical weed control to the fullest



Parasitic plant- eg. Cassytha filiformis (tali putri) for controlling Mikania sp

Mulches -eg. Mucuna sp. & EFB





• Paraquat

contact action

- Target photosynthesis affected
- Short rainfast
- Volatile

o Diuron

systemic action

- Low water solubility
- Low volatility, photodecomposition
- Root uptake
- Foliage uptake with adjuvents
- Target photosynthesis
 affected

• 2,4-D; Triclopyr, Fluroxypyr

systemic through foliage and roots

- Synthetic growth factor
- Highly effective against broadleaf weeds
- Drift and vapour may damage susceptible non-target species
- Target growth affected

Metsulfuron

Systemic

- inhibit acetolactate synthase (enzyme)
- Very low use rate (2-75g a.i./ha)
- Very low mammalian toxicity
- Use for pre- and postemergences to control broadleaves weeds and some grasses.
- Target growth affected

• Glyphosate

Systemic and most mobile

- inhibit aromatic amino acid biosynthesis
- Penetrates foliage relatively slow (6 hours)
- Very low mammalian toxicity
- Target growth affected (especially meristems)

• Glufosinate

Limited systemic

- inhibit synthesis of glutamine
- Low mammalian toxicity
- Target growth affected

Selective weeding gangs for tough weeds





Asystasia intrusa



Echinochloa crus-galli



Imperata cylindrica



Borreria latifolia 118



Melastoma malabathricum 103



Avoid slashing and other manual weeding

- Costly
- Fast regeneration



Use adjuvant in rainy season

 Reduce wastage and improves rainfastness

Spray in the correct timing



- Before flowering of weeds,
- Weeding rounds on time to control weed succession.

Make use of high-tech in nozzles and low-volume sprayers such as CDAs

- Work rate and efficacy could be improved by reducing carrier volume from 450 down to 50-150L/ha.
- Reduce the losses caused by mists drift, reduce water dependency

Use correct calibration to optimize the result

 [Solution to make (L)/ Carrier volume of the equipment (L/ha)] * Dosage recommended (L/ha)

To plan and forecast the chemicals to be used

• actual target area will be determined first.

• Example:

Density of planting = 145/ ha, Radius of the target circle = 1m Then,

Actual area of spraying target in a hectare = $145 *\pi(1)^2 m^2$

 $= 455.3 m^2$

Recommended dosage by manufacturer is 3L/bha for immature area,

Therefore, actual volume of chemical needed is [455m²/10000m²] x 3L/ha = 0.136 L /ha

