

Using Sandea Herbicide in Vine Crops

The following article is written by Dr. Doug Doohan at Ohio State University. It is a good overview of Sandea herbicide. Remember that Sandea is now registered for use in cucumbers, winter squash, and pumpkins grown in Massachusetts. I have made a few editorial changes to Doug's article. - Rich Bonnano

More on Sandea Herbicide, by Doug Doohan

I continue to get inquiries about Sandea. These range from the products price and alternative lower-cost products containing the same active ingredient to "how to use Sandea?".

The unit cost of Sandea is high, and this may be a problem for growers with very small plantings. However, when compared to hand weeding, Sandea is still a good bargain for vine crop producers with more than just a few acres.

Sandea contains the active ingredient halosulfuron. Halosulfuron is also the active ingredient found in the corn herbicide Permit(tm). Permit is priced into the corn market and for that reason it is sold for less money than Sandea. Should vine crop growers take advantage of this fact and use Permit instead of Sandea to save money? Definitely not!

Applying Permit to vine crops is a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and is an illegal act. Secondly, it has taken years of research effort and dollars to register Sandea on cucurbits. The registrant, Gowan Chemical Company has stated repeatedly that they will cancel their registration if they determine that Permit is being used on registered crops rather than their product. This would mean that the tolerance for halosulfuron on vine crops would also be cancelled. A trace of halosulfuron detected on cucurbits would then point towards a violation. I hope it is clear that saving a few dollars by using Permit now would cost all growers dearly, down the road.

How to use Sandea? Start off with a label, and read it carefully. Gowan tells me that 1/2 oz/ A is a good rate for most situations. PRE treatments are going to be best for lambsquarters and purslane. PRE will give about 80% control of purslane, which means that you will still see it in the crop but should not be overrun by it. POST treatments will give no control of purslane and little control of lambsquarters. Morning glories can be controlled up to the early seedling stage according to Dr. Steve Weller from Purdue University. We plan to look at weed stage of growth and sensitivity to Sandea more closely this year in Ohio. Sandea does a good job on nutsedge, pigweeds, ragweed, velvetleaf, and cocklebur when applied POST. From a crop safety point of view consider that Dr. Brad Majek from Rutgers claims that Sandea is going to turn any crop it's applied to yellow. No chlorosis on the crop? Probably means you applied an insufficient rate of the herbicide. Generally, chlorosis should not translate into reduced yields. We have not seen yield reductions in three years of testing in Ohio. However, when PRE treatments are followed by heavy rainfall, severe injury can occur. Sandea can be used under plastic mulch, between beds covered with plastic, or over the top of plants growing in bare ground culture. Applications made over the top of plants on plastic mulch may lead to crop injury! Evidence suggests that Sandea may wash into the transplant hole from the surrounding plastic mulch and concentrate directly in the crop root zone.

Let's consider rate. One-half ounce per acre is a small quantity to measure - consider that 1 fluid ounce is approximately 2 tablespoons. You don't have to be under- or over- by too much in order to apply a rate that is too low or far too high. The crop you injure will be your own! The Sandea label clearly states that users assume all liability for crop damage. Make sure your sprayer is calibrated accurately, that the nozzles are not worn and use an accurate measuring device. Remember to use a non-ionic surfactant with POST applications.

Finally, remember that Sandea is persistent in the soil. Rotational crop guidelines are provided on the label and must be strictly adhered to.