



# MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 44  
(July, 1987)

## WEED CONTROL IN MAIZE

Maize is very susceptible to weed competition, particularly during the first 5 to 6 weeks after planting. If weed competition is severe at early growth stages, when maize is below 30 cm in height, crop yield will be substantially reduced or there may even be no yield at all. One of the most troublesome weeds in maize is *Cyperus rotundus* (herbe à oignons); it requires specific control methods, as recommended.

### I. General weed control

When the field is known to be usually infested with grasses and broad-leaved weeds, ONE of the four herbicide treatments given below can be used:

	/ha	/arp
Primagram 50%	@ 7 L	3 L
OR Pree 40% + Atrazine 80%	@ 1.8 L + 2.4 kg	0.75 L + 1 kg
OR Harness 90% + Atrazine 80%	@ 2.4 L + 2.4 kg	1 L + 1 kg
OR Linuron 50%	@ 6 kg	2.5 kg

If only broad-leaved weeds are expected, the following herbicide treatment can be applied :

Atrazine @ 3.5 kg/ha (1.5 kg/arp)

All the above treatments should be diluted in 640 L of water/ha (60 gall./arp) and sprayed in pre-emergence of crop and weeds. The recommended rates can be reduced by 25% in full stand maize because full canopy is reached earlier than in cane interrows.

## **2. Control of *Cyperus rotundus***

### **2.1 Full stand maize**

This tough weed should preferably be controlled 3 to 4 weeks before land preparation with the following :

**Roundup 36% @ 3 L/ha (1.25 L/arp)**

sprayed in post emergence of the weed at the pre- or early flowering stage

In presence of maize, the same treatment can be used a few weeks before harvest, provided that spraying is done under canopy and that the lowest leaves have dried.

### **2.2 Maize in cane interrows**

ONE of the two following treatments can be used :

**Basagran-DP 60% @ 3.5 L/ha (1.5 L/arp)**

provided that the maize plants have reached at least 15 cm in height;

**OR 2,4-D amine salt @ 2.4 kg a.e./ha ( 1 kg a.e./arp)**

provided that the maize plants have reached at least 30 cm in height.

In both cases, spraying must be directed to the base of the maize plants, thus avoiding the leaf canopy.

\* This Recommendation Sheet cancels No. 17 of September 1981