

Weed Control For Peonies

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Weeds are a serious pest in a peony field. Tests this past season have shown that most weeds can be controlled by applying suitable herbicides to the ground during late autumn or early winter. The beds were weed free at the time of flower cutting and in several cases until late summer.

How was this done?

In late fall the tops were cut down and removed. The beds were rototilled and fairly well cleaned of weeds. On December 22, treatments with chemicals were made. Treatments that gave weed free peonies at cutting time were Karmex DW, 2 lbs. of 80% material per 100 gallons of water per acre, Diuron (same chemical as Karmex DW) at 100 lbs. of 2% granular per acre, Simazin at 5 lbs. of actual material (10 lbs. of 50% wettable powder) in 100 gallons of water per acre, and Neburon at 8 lbs. per 100 gallons of water per acre.

Heavier applications of the herbicides gave essentially weed free beds until late summer and there were no indications of plant injury. Actually, peony plants in the more successfully treated area looked better because of less competition from weeds for a limited nitrogen supply. The heavier rates were Karmex DW at 4 lbs. per acre, Diuron at 200 lbs. of 2% granular per acre, and Simazin at 10 lbs. actual per acre. The photograph (figure 1) shows the effectiveness of the treatments.

Suggested treatments

Apply Karmex DW at 2-4 lbs. of 80% material or Simazin at 10-20 lbs. of 50% wettable powder in 50-100 gallons of water per acre during the dormant season in cleaned up peony beds. Do not cultivate after application. Peony growers should try this on a limited scale. Results may be very worthwhile economically.

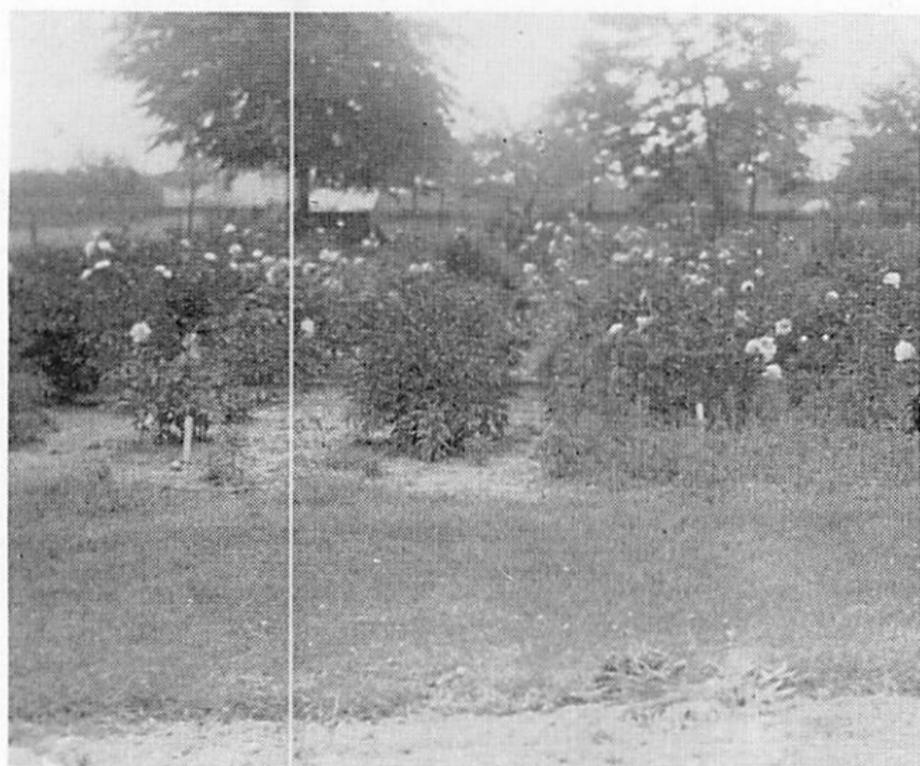


Figure 1. Far left—Liquid Karmex DW; center—Granular Karmex DW, both at 2 lbs. actual material per acre; right—control.