

## Greenhouse Herbicides

We have continued to have good results in controlling all weeds under greenhouse benches with Roundup®, Monsanto's *Glyphosate All-Purpose Herbicide*. We have not had any evidence of injury from volatiles in the air during or after spraying nor have we seen any evidence of toxic residues left in the soil following spraying. There is a possibility of injury due to drift of the spray. Since the product is expensive, we recommend spraying with very low pressure. This wets maximum weeds with minimum material but does take more time. With low pressure, drift of the spray is unlikely.

From Professor Jay S. Koths, Extension Floriculturist of the University of Connecticut come these remarks on other herbicides that can be useful in and around the greenhouse.

*Paraquat* is used at 1 oz. to 3 gal. water. This will kill nearly any green plant tissue. Use a nonionic detergent to increase the kill. Paraquat may be used around roses if you make sure to not hit green canes. The material is inactivated upon contact with soil (not

mulch or sand) so a bed in which weeds are growing might be sprayed, then planted a short time afterwards. Note: The fumes of Paraquat are extremely toxic so proper precautions not to inhale the fumes must be taken.

*Diuron* was formerly distributed and is still available under the trade name *Karmex*. Residual activity in the soil may be as long as 3 years. Use only on soil where you are not going to grow plants. Do not apply in walks between ground beds as some toxin is sure to reach plant roots. No volatile from this material. Apply at 1 tablespoon/3 gal. to thoroughly wet the surface soil layer.

*Simazine* is sold as *Princep80W*. Used at the same rate and with the same precautions as diuron. It may also be obtained in granular form for scattering under the benches.

We are looking at several other weed killers that hold some promise for greenhouse use.

Your Editor,

W D Holley

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