

Ditch Bank Weed Control

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Managing vegetation along irrigation ditch banks and roadways can be extremely challenging. If weeds are allowed to grow unchecked, problems arise inside the canal by restricting the flow of water and causing water levels to rise. Weed seeds could easily spread with the water flow to nearby fields and re-germinate.

Vegetation that grows at the waterline inside the canal has been controlled by glyphosate for many years and are now showing resistance to this material.

In recent years this has been an increasing problem because of the lack of registered chemicals that will effectively control these waterline weeds. Fleabane, Marestail and Mexican Sprangletop are weeds that are well known to anyone who manages vegetation for a living.

Management of these weeds truly takes a new approach to your spray program. Products that will effectively control them are difficult to use around irrigation canals. Many of these sites are too close to agricultural crops for safe use, and not registered for use on flowing water structures.

This presentation will discuss the importance of managing vegetation along irrigation canals and the practices involved. Additional topics will include how to develop a good weed control program, management of resistant weeds in hard to control areas, and common products used in vegetation management.

References:

SePro Corporation, *Clearcast product label* www.sepro.com

Target Specialty Products materials list www.target-specialty.com