

Weed Control

Newell Crownover

Pennsylvania at Greenwood, uses a 27% aromatic hydrocarbon mineral spirits on all conifers and larch. Black alder and yellow poplar beds are planted after several sprays to kill emerging weeds. At emergence, while these seedlings are still young they may be sprayed with only minor losses. This system permits 2 hand weeding per year instead of 4. Weed control with mineral spirits has been so successful that no search has been made for other chemicals.

Control of weeds in paths and pipelines with Simazine 4% granular at 30 lb/A has not been very successful, probably because the rate was too low.

Only one nursery in the region, Saratoga reported using chemicals other than mineral spirits for seedbed weed control. (Sidney Hanks, Mount Sopris Nursery, representing U. S. Forest Service is using chemicals other than mineral spirits) Saratoga is constantly test-ing chemicals, both contact and preemergence to replace mineral spirits. The danger of insidious or outright damage to seedlings by mineral spirits and the increasing occurrence of resistant weeds have prompted the search. Mineral spirits is still a very useful contact herbicide for certain stages of seedling development. Simazine at 1 lb. AIA (Active Ingredient per Acre) can be applied by the middle of July on 1-0 beds and again in October to give good weed control. Applications to older stock at 1 lb AIA are made in June and September. Amino triazole at 1 lb AIA looks promising on

spruce for control of emerged weeds. Amazine has been used for several years at 5 lb AIA to control both emerged and preemerged weeds in non crop areas, paths, pipelines, roads and headlands.

The question of residual Simazine was raised and an example of residual in Canada was reported. Higher rates (4 - 4 1/2 lb/A) were used there and in the heavier soil and cooler climate, damage to oats was observed. Areas treated with 3 lb AIA have been sown the following year at Saratoga with no evidence of damage (or weed control). Simazine is bio-degradeable, and where reasonable rates are used, no residual problems have been encountered.

Trials at all nurseries were suggested for 1967. A simple method used at Saratoga to test various rates consists of mixing a low rate, say 1/2 lb AIA, and spraying repeated passes to give 1/2, 1, 1 1/2, 2 lb AIA.

The successful use of Simazine on out-planted seedlings was reported by Pennsylvania and New Jersey.