

WILBUR ELLIS COMPANY

by

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The Forest tree Nurseryman has problems. Weed problems--among others! His acreage is relatively small and his crop expensive. This adds up to almost zero by the manufacturer of chemical weed killers who must balance his expensive research efforts with a necessary profit. Therefore, wheat, cotton, corn, and soy beans reap the benefits of herbicide research.

After a product receives a label for a large use crop, then it is tested on lesser crops. Eventually a promising herbicide tried and cleared for nursery use, but this still does not necessarily mean a use for the forest nursery program.

Therefore, the forest tree grower must ultimately do his own research, on his own. acres, to be sure he has a chemical he can safely use even though that chemical may not have a label for his particular use. There are products available and most forest nurseries use one or more of them but still expensive hand weeding is necessary.

Semazine in particular, and Atrazine are used in the nurseries of Western Oregon and Washington. Treflan, Balan, and Dacthal have found use in other nurseries. But the weed control answer is not universal. Perhaps alternating or combining of such products is this answer.

Several new products also show promise and perhaps should be tested by the various nurseries. Kerb, TOK, and Tenoran are a few of these. Other new herbicides now being tested for agricultural crops indicate possible use in forest nurseries.

Although new products may be a future answer, I believe that there are herbicide tools available now which can reduce weeding costs but are not being used. Testing has to be done by you, the Nurseryman. Hand weeding costs should be incentive enough.