



Pre-emergence, selective contact and total herbicide options for container-grown HNS.  
Herbicide damage – symptom identification by various active substances

Selchuk Kurtev, Zest Sustainable ICM

# What I will cover

- **Pre-emergence herbicides**
- **Selective contact herbicides**
- **Non-selective (total) contact herbicides**
- **Herbicide effect on weeds**
- **Crop symptoms**

# Pre-emergence herbicides

- Applied over the top of crops but the target is the growing media surface
- Applied before weed emergence
- Mostly short to medium persistence
- Many are soluble and easily displaced
- Incorporation into the growing media surface layer is the objective
- Where more than one approved application possible to top up the layer
- Adherence to regulatory restrictions can be challenging
- Crop penetration can be problematic

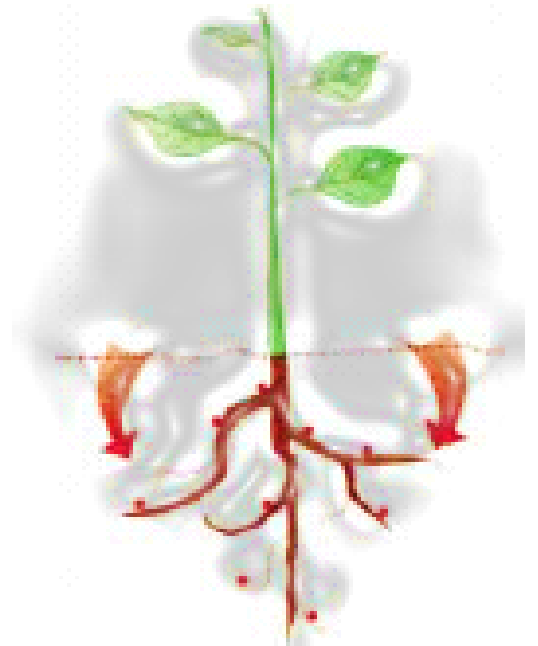
# Root mitotic inhibitors

**AIM:** To block cell division

Pendimethalin, propyzamide

Effect on weeds

- ✓ Root development inhibited resulting in stunted plant growth
- ✓ Stems and leaves turn purple (similar to phosphorus deficiency)
- ✓ High concentration of herbicide near soil surface can lead to formation of callus tissue
- ✓ Stems become brittle
- ✓ Damage from drift is uncommon
- ✓ Low water solubility + volatile nature of product
- ✓ Require soil incorporation



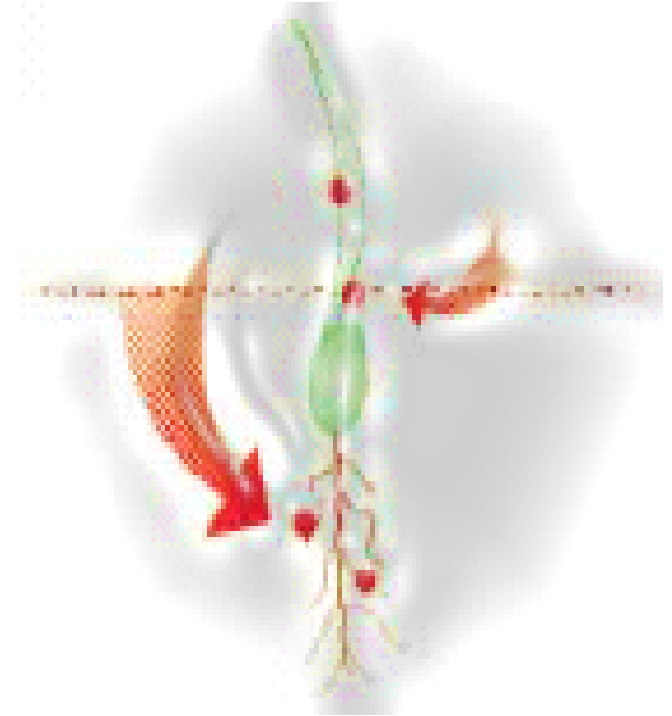
# Shoot inhibitors

**AIM:** To affect cell growth and division

Flufenacet, metazachlor, napropamide, S-metolachlor

## Effect on weeds

- ✓ Stunted shoots; leaf crinkling
- ✓ Seedlings may leaf up underground making emergence difficult
- ✓ Grass seedling leaves may not unfurl correctly
- ✓ Carry over or tank contamination injury is unlikely
- ✓ Direct damage to crop only if under stress or if conditions encourage uptake (cool, wet spell followed by warm, windy weather)



# Photosynthetic inhibitors

**AIM:** To interfere with photosynthesis by blocking electron transfer, resulting in cell damage and cell death

Lenacil, metamitron, metribuzin

## Effect on weeds

- ✓ Herbicides applied to soil penetrate root and translocate throughout plant
- ✓ Oldest leaves turn chlorotic first
- ✓ Plant becomes stunted and may die if enough leaf tissue is affected
- ✓ Carry over damage is common especially in soils  $> \text{pH } 7.0$



# Dimethenamid-P and metazachlor

- HRAC K3 + K3 –  $\alpha$ -chloroacetamide
- Two EAMUs – 1.6L field application and 2.5L pre-crop emergence
- 50 days handling restriction, this product must not be applied via handheld equipment
- Workers must not enter treated crops for a minimum of six days after an application is made
- Useful broadleaf weed spectrum, top up option for metazachlor for one year in three - 1,000g a.s/ha permitted per year per field
- Used at 1.25L/ha in late autumn, early winter



# Isoxaben

- HRAC L - benzamide
- Inhibits cell wall formation in dividing cells
- Excellent broadleaf weed control particularly chickweed, **some** bittercress control
- Poor control of annual grass weeds, groundsel and willowherb
- Application immediately before standing down is OK
- Do not apply to very dry or extremely dry surfaces
- Can last up to 12 weeks
- One application per crop





# Lenacil

- HRAC C1
- Residual activity, no contact
- Outdoors ONLY
- Good control of grasses, pearlwort, liverwort and willowherb
- Avoid application to soft spring growth, absorbed primarily by roots
- OK on most conifers except Cryptomeria and Taxus
- Use before end of July in year of application
- A maximum total dose of 500g/l lenacil per hectare may only be applied every third year on the same field
- 0.4L/ha in 200L of water, two applications at 0.4L/ha + one application at 0.2L/ha permitted



# Metazachlor

- HRAC K3 -  $\alpha$ -chloroacetamide
- Residual activity with a limited contact action on growing weeds
- Good control of grasses, groundsel, pearlwort and willowherb
- Avoid applications to soft spring growth
- Very good safety profile, lots of tolerance information available, absorbed by the hypocotyls and roots
- If damage occurs, crops often recover by the end of the season
- Less damage from applications made in the autumn/winter period
- Maximum total dose 1,000g metazachlor active substance per ha may only be applied every third year to same field



# Metribuzin



- HRAC C1 - triazinone
- Good on wide range of annual and perennial broadleaved weeds including grasses
- Pre- and post-emergence control
- Contact and residual
- Root and shoot uptake
- Damage visible much later in season
- Two EAMUs available – post-emergence dormant season and pre-emergence of crop
- Deciduous and some evergreens
- Risk to crops
- 1.15L/ha – lower rate down to 0.75L/ha still OK



# Napropamide

- HRAC K3 - acetamide
- Broken down by light in the soil/growing media
- Works best if followed by rainfall or a sprinkler irrigation of 10-15mm within 7 days
- Safe on many woody plants but is weak at controlling some broadleaf weeds such as oxalis
- Good grass, willowherb and groundsel control and can also suppress small nettle
- Useful on herbaceous subjects, and deciduous crops
- Absorbed by roots with systemic activity
- Not for use on alpiners and succulents – stunted growth
- Do not use on variegated evergreens and pots less than 1L
- Apply in December – February – FULL RATE at 7L/ha use in 1,000L
- 13 weeks handling period!



# Pendimethalin

- HRAC K1 - dinitroaniline
- Good grass control and many broadleaved weeds
- Controls oxalis
- Absorbed by roots and leaves, residual
- Broken down by light in tank
- Bright orange colour
- Good for sand beds and gravel beds
- Very useful on sand and MyPex as it prevents rooting through
- Application immediately before standing down
- One per crop



# S-metolachlor

- HRAC K3 –  $\alpha$ -chloroacetamide
- Controls annual and perennial grasses and wide range of broadleaved weeds
- Particularly useful for chickweeds, groundsel, willowherb
- Absorbed by hypocotyls
- Outdoor ONLY
- AHDB HNS 166 report for fern, herbaceous and ornamental grass tolerances
- Application may only be made between 1 May - 31 May
- One application at 0.78L/ha use 400-600L/ha



## Other products



- Dimethenamid-P + pendimethalin – **Wing-P (MAPP15424)**
- Metamitron – **Goltix 70SC (MAPP16638)**
- Prosulfocarb – **Defy (MAPP16202)**



# Selective contact herbicides

- Require dry weather conditions before and after treatment
- Wet foliage canopy reduces efficacy
- Timing of application is crucial as it depends on weed growth stage
- Concentrations of product more important than dose rate
- 'Selective' means specific weed species
- Damage does occur frequently, and it can be permanent, especially with herbaceous
- Presence of leaf wax on the crop provides the best tolerance
- Do not use with adjuvants



# Hormone (auxin)-type herbicides (soil + foliar applied)

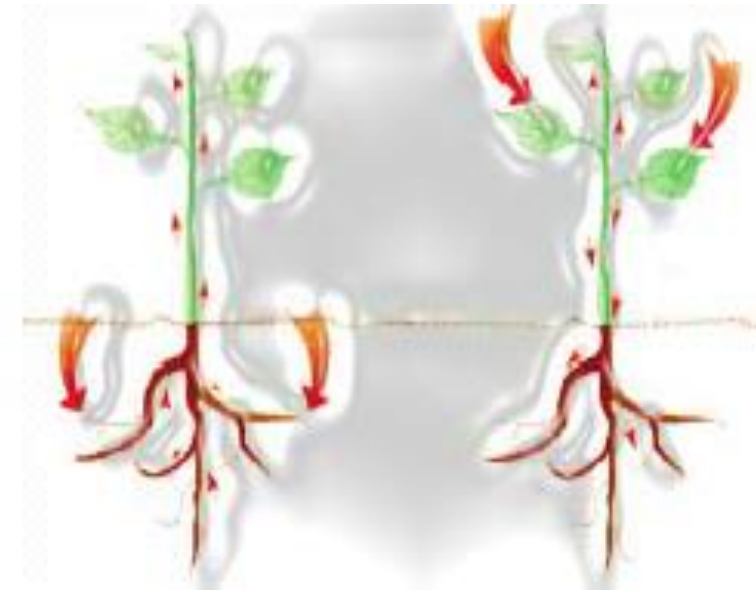


**AIM:** To affect growth in the newest stems and leaves

2,4-D, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, MCPA

## Effect on weeds

- ✓ Stunted, malformed seedlings
- ✓ New growth twisted and distorted
- ✓ Calluses form on stem; plant may lean and become brittle
- ✓ Grasses exhibit leaf rolling
- ✓ Symptoms likely from drift, tank contamination or direct injury



# Meristematic (lipid) inhibitors (foliar applied)

**AIM:** To block formation of lipids in shoot (meristem) and roots of grass weeds

Clethodim, cycloxydim

Effect on weeds

- ✓ Symptoms slow to develop
- ✓ Plants become stunted when new growth is stopped
- ✓ Growing point disintegrates and dies first
- ✓ Carry over unlikely at normal application rates; tank contamination and drift can affect crops
- ✓ Direct damage usually caused by adjuvants used with products



## Clethodim

- HRAC: A
- Controls perennial and annual grass weeds
- Can be used over deciduous nursery stock and certain bulb species from 5-10 cm tall
- Best control when weeds are small
- Do not cultivate for 14 days after application
- Death of foliage takes three to four weeks after application
- No rain for four hours after application
- Drought and cool conditions reduce effectiveness
- Can be used with a knapsack sprayer
- Compatible with Butisan S, Dow Shield
- Application March to September
- Six weeks handling restriction with protective workwear



# Clopyralid

- HRAC: O
- Controls creeping thistle, spear thistle, corn marigold, mayweeds, groundsel, clover and dandelion
- Treat creeping thistle at rosette stage
- Avoid rain for six hours, absorbed **by roots** and leaves
- Not on Brachyglottis, Cytisus, Eryngium, Genista or Laburnum
- On-label approval for ornamentals for a range of products
- EAMU available for ornamentals
- Good for weed wiping
- Avoid drift at all costs!
- DO NOT use in protected structures on production beds
- Slow to work but it's very effective
- Needs actively growing weeds
- Effects reduced by low temperature



# Fluroxypyr

- HRAC: O
- Good on a range of annual and perennial broad-leaved weeds but won't control grasses
- Low volatility so no vapour drift
- Requires high temperatures of 10°C+
- Fantastic bind weed, chickweed, cleaver, groundsel, red dead nettle control
- Poor on bittercress, fat hen, and other brassica weeds
- EAMU available for outdoor ornamentals
- 0.6L/ha (18ml/10L or 15ml/10L)
- Outdoors only, good in mixes with Nirvana in summer or autumn
- Serious problems if mixed with sulfonylureas



**Starane<sup>®</sup>** Hi-Load HL  
**HERBICIDE**

**zest<sup>®</sup>**  
Sustainable ICM

# Non-selective contact herbicides

- Particularly sensitive to weather conditions before and after treatment
- Wet foliage canopy reduces efficacy
- Weed coverage and dose is very important – speed and efficacy
- Adjuvants and water conditioners enhance performance
- Some can be used over top of dormant crops successfully
- Persistence in growing media and soils is noticeable

# Protein biosynthesis inhibitors

**AIM:** To inhibit a key enzyme in the amino acid synthesis pathway

Glyphosate

Effect on weeds

- ✓ Slow chlorosis of tissue (10-14 days)
- ✓ Stunting
- ✓ Change in flower colour
- ✓ Systemic, non-selective action on tissue
- ✓ Inactivated on contact with soil



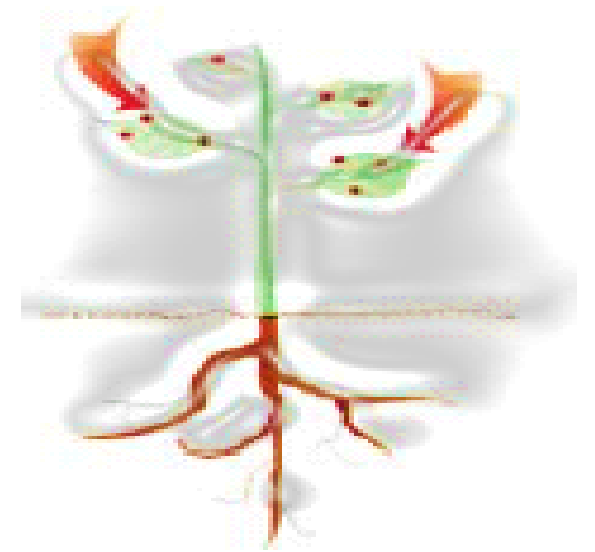
# Photosynthetic inhibitors

**AIM:** To block photosynthetic reaction; disrupt cellular membranes so light can't be converted into chemical energy

Carfentrazone-ethyl, pelargonic acid

## Effect on weeds

- ✓ Spray penetrates leaves and produces localised tissue discoloration and death
- ✓ Plants become stunted and die if enough tissue is affected
- ✓ Carry over unlikely and drift injury limited to droplets from nearby applications
- ✓ Control increased with addition of spray additives





# Carfentrazone-ethyl

- HRAC: E
- Can be used around the perimeter of the nursery
- Controls young annual weeds but not grasses, absorbed by leaves
- OK to use over fully dormant crops
- On-label approval for all non-edible crops
- EAMU available for protected and outdoor ornamentals (21 days PHI)
- Volatile and requires adjuvant 'Silwet L77'
- Best applied on dry sunny days
- Good in tank mix with glyphosate if you looking for speed of kill and grass control
- Use with some residuals in dormant season
- Some formulation challenges when mixing with residuals
- DOES HAVE RESIDUAL ACTIVITY ON SEED GERMINATION



# Glyphosate

- HRAC: G
- Systemic herbicide, translocated to roots and shoots; kills the entire plant
- Effective on both annual and perennial weeds
- Contact with leaves of the ornamentals results in injury or total plant death
- Glyphosate activity is increased in low water volumes
- Often takes seven or more days after application for control
- Avoid drift
- pH and alkalinity sensitive
- Water conditioners and adjuvant may be required
- EAMUs available on Clinic Up, Roundup ProActive



## Pelargonic acid

- HRAC: Z
- Two products available both unique
- Both require specific environmental conditions and coverage
- Good on broadleaf weeds, grasses require adjuvant and early-stage application
- Poor on a range of perennial weeds
- Avoid rain or high humidity after application
- Good for herbaceous perennial crops indoors in dormant season (Katoun Gold only)
- Some formulation difficulties, can become like a gel





# Crop symptoms (herbicide or otherwise)



































  
HTA

**zest**<sup>®</sup>  
Sustainable ICM



NURSERY PRODUCTION

**Zest-ICM**

☎ 0333 005 0167

✉ [nurseryproduction@hta.org.uk](mailto:nurseryproduction@hta.org.uk)



**zest<sup>®</sup>**  
Sustainable ICM

**zest<sup>®</sup>**  
Sustainable ICM