

Get tree, vine weeds now

By ERIC McMULLIN

THIS is a word to tree and vine growers: There's still time to take corrective action if filaree, hairy fleabane or field bindweed is in your orchard or vineyard.

These typically are problem weeds in trees and vines, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation has just registered Venue, a broadleaf herbicide that is particularly effective against certain weeds — among them morningglory, stinging nettle and the

Key Points

- DPR has registered Venue, a broadleaf herbicide for trees and vines.
- The catch is that Venue must be applied before bloom.
- Growers can expect to almost always tank mix Venue.

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"We've been waiting for this reg-

istration," says a relieved Bill Ulrich, western regional sales manager for Nichino America. "We see a bright future for Venue in a variety of uses, but for 2007, we really needed registration before bloom. The timing of the registration means that Venue can be added to a grower's pre-bloom burndown and catch those weeds that have become such a problem."

Venue is registered as a stand-alone herbicide, but it almost always will be tank-mixed, says Ulrich.

"That's its particular niche," he



PRE-BLOOM BURNDOWN: Growers can add Venue to their pre-bloom burndown and catch weeds that have become a problem in vines and trees.

says. "It tends to 'heat up' the tank mix, meaning that it makes those other herbicides even more effective. And it picks up the weeds other herbicides are weak on."

To control filaree, hairy fleabane and field bindweed, Ulrich recommends adding 2 to 4 ounces of Venue to the recommended label rates of glyphosate, 2,4-D or Gramoxone. If weeds are small or not widespread, rates of glyphosate, 2,4-D and Gramoxone can be lowered slightly, he says.

"That's one nice thing about Venue," says Ulrich. "Oftentimes, we see that Venue's tank-mix partners can be reduced somewhat because the entire tank is 'hotter.'"

"We expect Venue to make a significant impact in California," he says. "Growers are always looking for options, and Venue gives them a new chemistry with a new mode of action that is effective against their problem weeds."

Synergistic effect

"Within two years," Ulrich continues, "Venue will be included in the majority of glyphosate, 2,4-D and Gramoxone applications. And considering how widespread those three are used, we expect Venue to be very popular."

Ron Vargas, former farm adviser for Madera County, concurs, up to a point.

"In combination with Roundup, Venue has somewhat of a synergistic effect on hard-to-get weeds like field bindweed," says Vargas, who did early field work with Venue before he retired. "And it does a very good job on morningglory. Filaree and hairy fleabane are primary weeds in trees and vines, and Venue picks those up. Stinging nettle would be another one."

The herbicide will be especially useful where hairy fleabane is tolerant to glyphosate, says Vargas.

"We have identified hairy fleabane that at least tolerates Roundup in Madera County," he reports.

Fall and winter use

"Venue's big selling point is that it gets some hard-to-get weeds and it's inexpensive. I would expect it to be popular," concludes Vargas. "I just can't say how popular."

Ulrich expects Venue's primary use to be in the fall and winter to clean up orchard and vineyard floors and to kill the winter flush of weeds. In a dormant application, Venue should be tank-mixed with a residual herbicide like Chateau, Surflan or Goal, says Vargas.

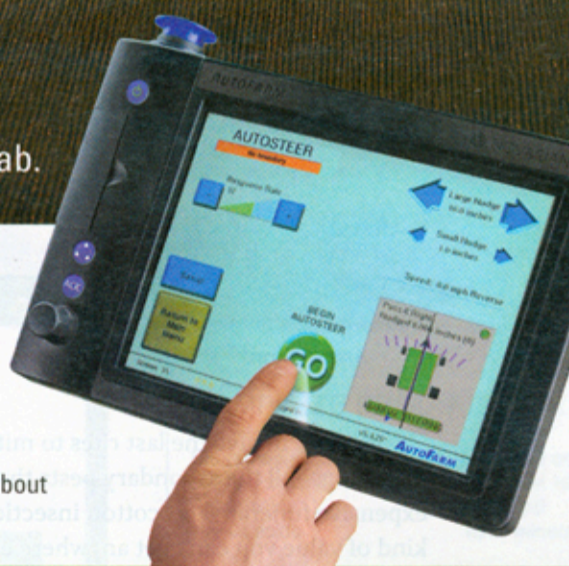


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