WEED CONTROL IN CANOPY OF SUGAR BEET

REGULÁCIA BURÍN V PORASTE REPY CUKROVEJ

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Abstract: *A three year field study (2005-2007) was conducted in south-western Slovakia to investigate the effect of herbicides control on weed density, diversity and herbicide efficiency in sugar beet fields. An actual weed infestation was evaluated before herbicides application and 3-4 week after application of herbicides with concordance to International scales of EWRS. Screening of each field was made on the quadrant of 1 m^2 area with four replications. Weed infestations in general was high, 105 pieces weeds per square meter. Weed diversity varied from 19 to 23 species each year of evaluation. On the base of three years field assessment we can conclude: The evaluated herbicides control is very effective strategy for weed control in sugar beet. After herbicides control the significant changes in weed flora were noted in term of abundance and share of some weed species on total weed community. After herbicide control Polygonum spp., Chenopodium spp. and Echinochloa crus-galli remained the dominant weed species in canopy of sugar beet. In late summer and autumn Amaranthus retroflexus, Cirsium arvense and Atriplex spp. also rise as a problem weeds.*

Rezumat: *V trojročných poľných pokusoch (2005-2007) v regióne juhozápadného Slovenska sme sledovali vplyv aplikácie herbicídov na početnosť, druhové zloženie a účinnosť herbicídov v porastoch repy cukrovej. Aktuálna zaburinenosť bola hodnotená pred aplikáciou a 3-4 týždne po aplikácii herbicídov podĺa medzinárodnej škály EWRS. Hodnotenie bolo robené na snímke 1 m^2 v štyroch opakovaniach. Celková zaburinenosť bola vysoká, 105 ks burin na m^2 Diverzita burín bola v rozpätí od 19 do 23 druhov. Na základe trojročných výsledkov sme urobili nasledovné závery: hodnotená skladba herbicídov zabezpečila efektívnu reguláciu zaburinenosti repy cukrovej. Po aplikácii herbicídov boli zistené preukazné zmeny burinového spoločenstva v početnosti burín a v zmene podielov burín na celkovom zložení spoločenstva. Polygonum spp., Chenopodium spp. and Echinochloa crus-galli zostali dominantnými burinovými druhmi aj po aplikácii herbicídov v poraste repy cukrovej. V neskoršom lete a na jeseň sa prejavili ako problémové buriny Amaranthus retroflexus, Cirsium arvense a Atriplex spp.*

Key words: *weed density, weed diversity, herbicides weed control, sugar beet*
Cuvinte cheie: *početnosť burín, diverzita, herbicídna regulácia zaburinenosti, repa cukrová*

INTODUCTION

Sugar beet is important crop in arable industry. Research worker everywhere are attempting to improve sustainability of beet growing, minimize any threat posed to the environment (DRAYCOTT, 2006). Sugar beet has much more specific production then the other cultivated plants (MARINKOVIĆ, 2007). Top sugar beet yields require effective weed control. Weed control in canopy of sugar beet is very important and the methods applied have been changing with the requirements of each time period. The weed control in canopy of sugar beet is getting more difficult in Slovak agri-environmental conditions. The main objective of the researches is to improve the cost-effectiveness of weed control in sugar beet whilst enhancing the environmental benefits that can accrue from weed control practices (ŠIMURKOVÁ, 2002; URBAN, 2006). The sugar beet as a row crop create condition for development of weed population mainly *Chenopodium* spp., *Atriplex* spp., *Persicaria* spp. and other vigorous and

height stature weeds (SMATANA et al., 2006). General measure against to secondary weed infestation is right establishment of canopy. Good join of canopy achieved competitive against weeds better than disconnected or bad join canopy. We put the accent on optimal and regular fertilization especially by nitrogen. Important role play a choice of appropriate herbicide at last treatment (JURSÍK et al, 2008 a).

The aim of this work was to evaluate the spray strategy of sugar beet weed control on experimental farm Kolíňany.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The field trial was conducted at the experimental farm Kolíňany (south-west Slovakia) in 2005-2007. Experimental farm is situated in warm and moderate arid climatic region with altitude of field from 180 to 310 m. The average annual rainfall is 539.0 mm. The average annual rainfall during the growing season is 320.3 mm. The mean annual temperature is 10.2˚C. The mean temperature during growing season is 16.3˚C. The soil is Ortic Luvisol with loamy texture. Sugar beet was growing on one or two large scale field range from 30 to 50 ha. An actual weed infestation was evaluated before application of herbicides and 3-4 week after application of herbicides with concordance to International scales of EWRS (Anonymous, 1988). Screening of each field was made on the quadrant of 1 m^2 area with four replications. One quadrant on each replication (0.7 m by 1.5 m) covers rows and inter-rows cultivation. The four randomly established sample quadrants were situated minimally 20 m from field margin and apart each other, respectively. The forecrop of sugar beet were cereals forecrops. After harvest of forecrop (winter wheat, spring barley) stubble cleaning followed by mouldboard ploughing and standard mechanical weed control have been used. Chemical weed control was used in three applications term T1-T3 as follows:

T1 and T2 applications: Betanal Expert (1 L ha^{-1}, desmedipham 71 g L^{-1}, phenmedipham 91 g L^{-1}, ethofumesate 112 g L^{-1}) and Safari 50 WG (30 g ha^{-1}, triflusulfuron-methyl 500 g kg^{-1}) and Lontrel 300 (0.2 L ha^{-1}, clopyralid 300 g L^{-1}); T3 application - Betanal Expert (1.5 L ha^{-1}) and Safari 50 WG (30 g ha^{-1} a.i.) and Lontrel 300 (0.3 L ha^{-1}) and Gallant Super (0.6 L ha^{-1}, haloxyfop-methyl 108 g L^{-1}).

The level of infestation was evaluated according to average density of weeds per square meter (table 1).

Table 1

Evaluation scale of actual weed infestation for excessively dangerous and less dangerous weeds (pieces weeds per square meter)

Weed group	Actual weed infestation				
	none	weak	low	medium	heavy
	infestation level				
	0	1	2	3	4
	number of weeds per m^2				
Excessively dangerous	-	≤ 2	3-5	6-15	≥ 16
Less dangerous	-	≤ 4	5-8	9-20	≥ 21

The efficacy of herbicides was assessed according changes of weed population before and after herbicides application.

Present study assessed the actual weed infestation of dominant weed species in canopy of sugar beet in 2005-2007.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The assessment of weed control strategy, weed population density, diversity and changes in weed flora in canopy of sugar beet are documented in table 2. Weed diversity

varied from 19-23 species each year of evaluation. TYŠER and NOVÁKOVÁ (2006) quoted that worse environmental conditions decreased the total number of weed species, mainly the number of thermophilous late spring annual weeds. In evaluated fields weather conditions and herbicides control were dominant factors influencing the weed community of experimental site. Jursík et al, 2008 b reported that weed infestation by *Amaranthus retroflexus, Echinochloa crus-galli, Chenopodium album and Mercurialis annua* is mostly caused by choice of unsuitable herbicide, wrong term of application or bad establishment of canopy.

Table 2

The weed infestation of prevalent weed species in canopy of sugar beet in 2005-2007
(pieces weeds per square meter)

Years	2005		2006		2007		Average 2005-2007	
Weed species	N	H	N	H	N	H	N	H
1 *Persicaria* spp.	30	3.0	28	2.5	16	1.0	24.7	2.16
2 *Chenopodium* spp.	9	2.0	21	2.5	31	1.5	20.3	2
3 *Amaranthus retroflexus*	2	0.5	5	1.0	11	2.0	6	1.16
4 *Echinochloa crus-galli*	15	3.0	23	1.0	28	1.8	22	1.9
5 *Cirsium arvense*	9	1.0	12	0.5	11	0.7	10.7	0.73
6 *Tripleurospermum inodorum*	5	1.0	2	0.1	6	0.8	4.3	0.63
7 *Galium aparine*	4	0.3	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.16
8 *Atriplex* spp.	5	1.0	6	1.0	9	0.6	6.7	0.86
9 *Avena fatua*	1	0.7	1	0.1	5	0.3	2.3	0.36
10 *Polygonum aviculare*	5	1.5	7	0.5	5	0.5	5.7	0.83

N- before application of herbicides, H- after herbicides application

The efficiency of herbicides control is evaluated on the base of two evaluation term before and after post emergency application. Heavy infestation of *Persicaria* spp. *Chenopodium* spp. and *Echinochloa crus-galli* and medium infestation of perennial weed *Cirsium arvense* and late spring annual weeds *Amaranthus retroflexus* and *Atriplex* spp. was noted. After herbicides control the significant changes in weed flora were noted in term of abundance and share of some weed species on total weed community. In spite of low abundance of *Polygonum aviculare* in herbicides free field it becomes the important part of weed community after herbicides application in. Significant and very strong eradication of weeds is very clear documented in table 2. In both evaluations terms with herbicides free field and after herbicide application *Persicaria* spp., *Chenopodium* spp. and *Echinochloa crus-galli* remained the dominant weed species in canopy of sugar beet. In late summer and autumn *Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Cirsium arvense* and *Atriplex* spp. also rise as a problem weeds. Similarly TÓTH (2004) stated *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Amaranthus* spp, *Chenopodium* spp., *Cirsium arvense* and *Persicaria* spp. as the most abundant weed species in sugar beet field. The pesticides weed control strategy very effectively decreased the weed population in sugar beet field. Safari with effect to leaves and roots of heavy control weeds was effective also in dry wetter.

CONCLUSIONS

On the base of three years field assessment we can conclude: The evaluated herbicides control is very effective strategy for weed control in sugar beet.

After herbicides control the significant changes in weed flora were noted in term of abundance and share of some weed species on total weed community.

Polygonum spp., *Chenopodium* spp. and *Echinochloa crus-galli* remained the dominant weed species in canopy of sugar beet. In late summer and autumn *Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Cirsium arvense* and *Atriplex* spp. also rise as a problem weeds.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The paper has been supported by VEGA Project 1/4441/07 "Ecologization of Agricultural Practices and the Environmental Function of Agriculture on the Intensive Farmland".