COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY

2015 Alabama Invasive Plant Council
Howard Peavey, Agronomist Mgr.
Cogongrass Control Strategy

“Go West Young Man”
Horace Greely
Treatment of infestations with glyphosate (> or equal to 3 lb ai/A) or glyphosate plus imazapyr (1.5 + 0.38 lb ai/A) in the fall; followed by drill seeding of a cover crop; followed by a spring treatment of re-growth with glyphosate (> or equal to 3 lb ai/A) and drill seeding a bermudagrass/bahiagrass mixture (2:1) at 30 lb/A

Study results published in 2004
1) Glyphosate alone will provide control; however, persistence is critical

2) ALDOT opted for the more conservation approach – glyphosate alone

3) Very laborious 3 year program

Study results published in 2004
Initiated a study looking at Cogongrass seed head suppression included varying rates and application dates of glyphosate and a DuPont numbered compound - KJM44 (ester formulation of aminocyclopyrachlor - ACP)

Dr. Jason Belcher, then with Auburn University, noticed that 2008 applications of KJM44 resulted not only in excellent seed head suppression but a reduction in vegetative growth as well
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2009

Initiated small plot study on vegetative control using the amine formulation of ACP (MAT 28)

2011

Initiated large scale demonstration along I-65 in Baldwin County using Perspective® (ACP & chlosulfuron)

Dr. Jason Belcher, now with DuPont Land Management, observed increased activity on Cogongrass using Viewpoint® in small plot studies (ACP, metsulfuron methyl, & imazapyr)
2012

Because of inconsistent results and the initiation of the new study, the large scale demonstration along I-65 was put on hold.

2012

Initiated small plot study using Perspective® & imazapyr (excluded metsulfuron methyl because of Bahiagrass activity)
Cogongrass control as affected by first and second year treatment; Perspective and Arsenal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>5/6/2014</th>
<th>6/10/2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>P 10 + A 8</td>
<td>99.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full fb 1/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>P 7.6 + A 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>P 7.6 + A 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full fb P 10</td>
<td>99.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Full = 1st year  Perspective 10 + Arsenal 16 fl oz/A
fb = followed by 2nd year ½ full rate

Dr. Harold Walker
Bahiagrass ground cover as affected by Perspective and Arsenal treatment over 2 years

Full = Perspective 10 + Arsenal 16 fl oz/A

Perspective 7.6 + Arsenal 16 fb Arsenal 16 fl oz/A

Dr. Harold Walker
ALDOT 8+8 program for cogongrass control; 8 oz Perspective + 8 fl oz Arsenal

Dr. Harold Walker
110; Photo: 6-10-2014; Non-treated

Dr. Harold Walker
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2014

Using ACP & imazapyr

(8 + 8 rate + MSO at 1% vol / vol)

the large scale demonstration along I-65 was renewed and additional acres were added along US 43 in Clarke County and AL 17 in Washington and Choctaw Counties

I-65 – 245 acres
US 43 & AL 17 – 675 acres
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2015

Early results:
- excellent seed head suppression
- delayed green up of turf
- too early to rate vegetative control

Expectations:
- good Cogongrass control with shift to Bahia or other non dominated turf
- continue demonstration treatment in October / November time frame
Disclaimer

This work has been conducted in areas subject to mowing 3 to 4 times annually. We have not worked with land use types that are not frequently mowed and have no idea as to the effectiveness of this treatment in those areas.
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Where do we go from here?

2 year plots are now being treated with different options including a skip to try to determine a long range control protocol

Challenges

$$$

Equipment

Landscaping / Tree line invasion
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Extension Agent Warns Homeowners About the "Grass From Hell"

"The following fall, preferably in September, spray the area with Arsenal, and repeat the process once every year for the next three years," she says. "Arsenal is soil active and you’re likely to lose pine trees and oaks in that immediate area, but just remember that dealing with cogongrass is a lot like fighting a war that will produce some collateral damage."