

# COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY



**ALDOT**  
**MAINTENANCE**  
**OPERATIONS**

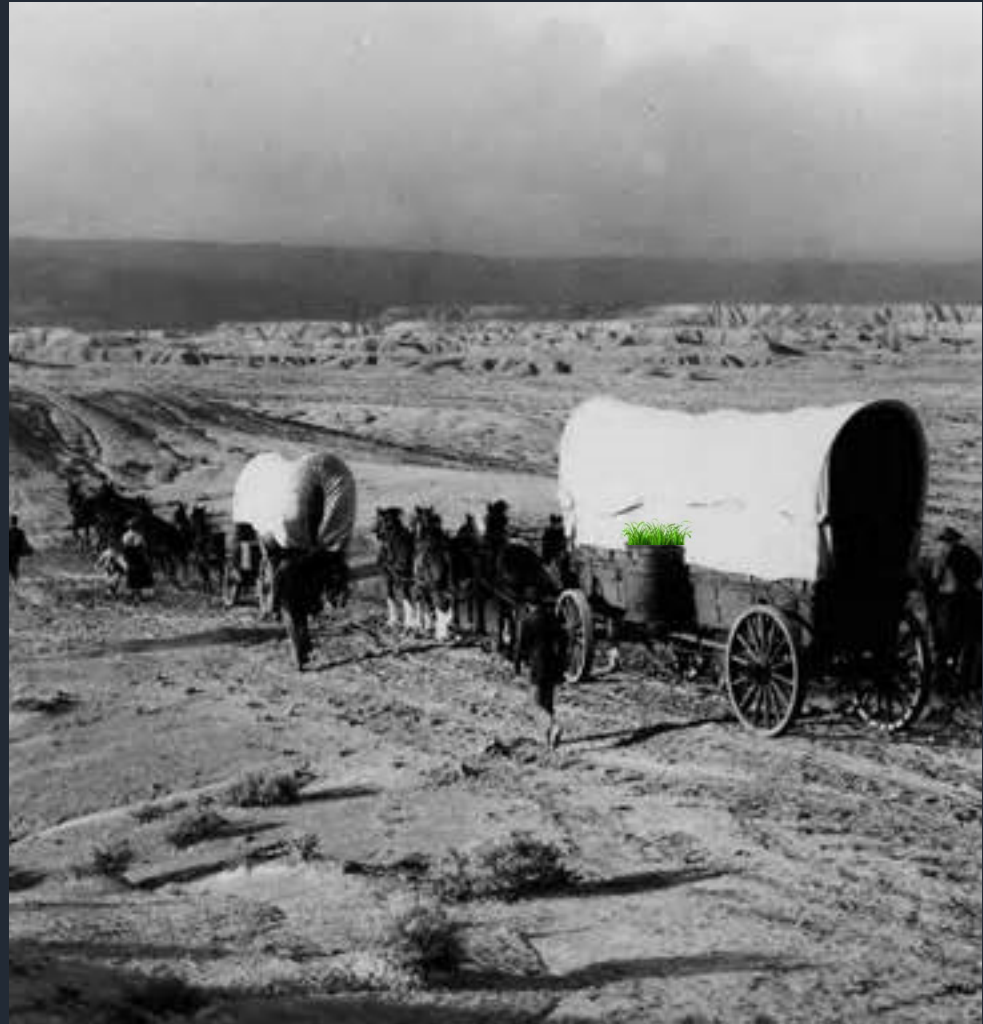
**A Better Road Ahead**

2015 Alabama Invasive Plant Council

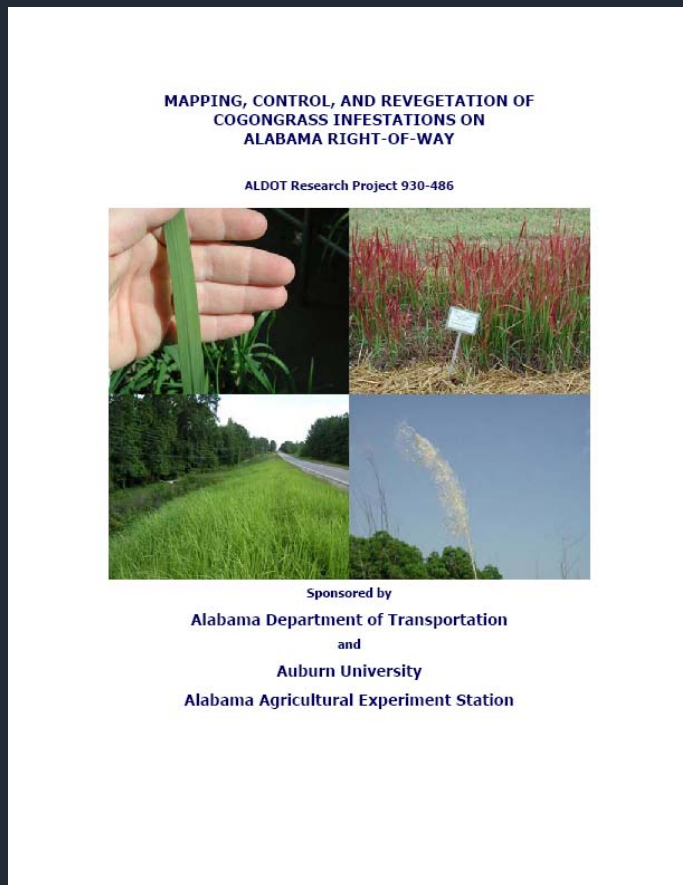
Howard Peavey, Agronomist Mgr.

# Cogongrass Control Strategy

“Go West Young Man”  
Horace Greely



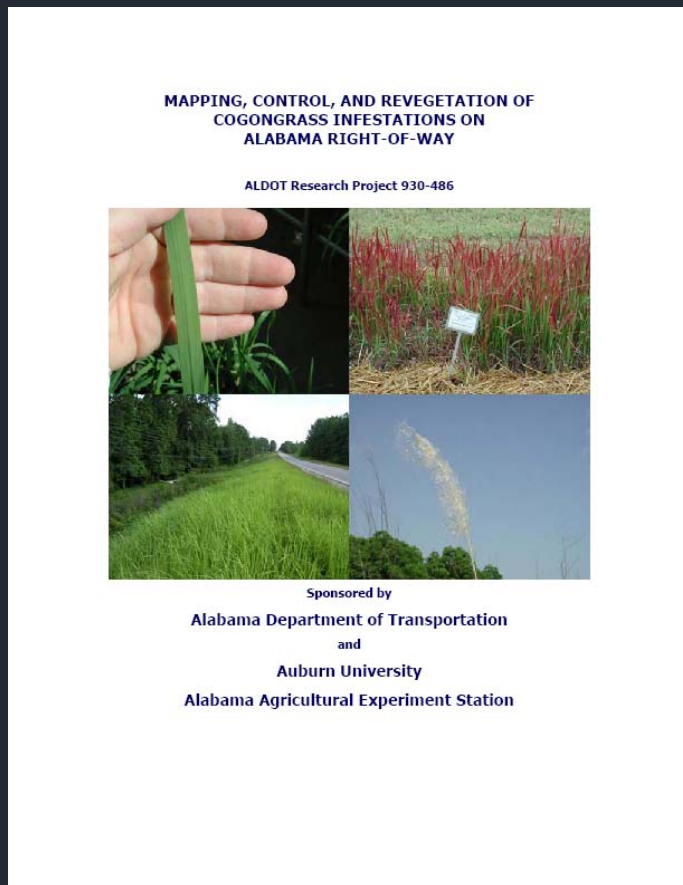
# COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY



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

# COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY



- 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

# **COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY**

**2008**

**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)**

**2009**

**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**

# **COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY**

**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<sup>®</sup> (ACP & chlosulfuron)**

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

# **COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY**

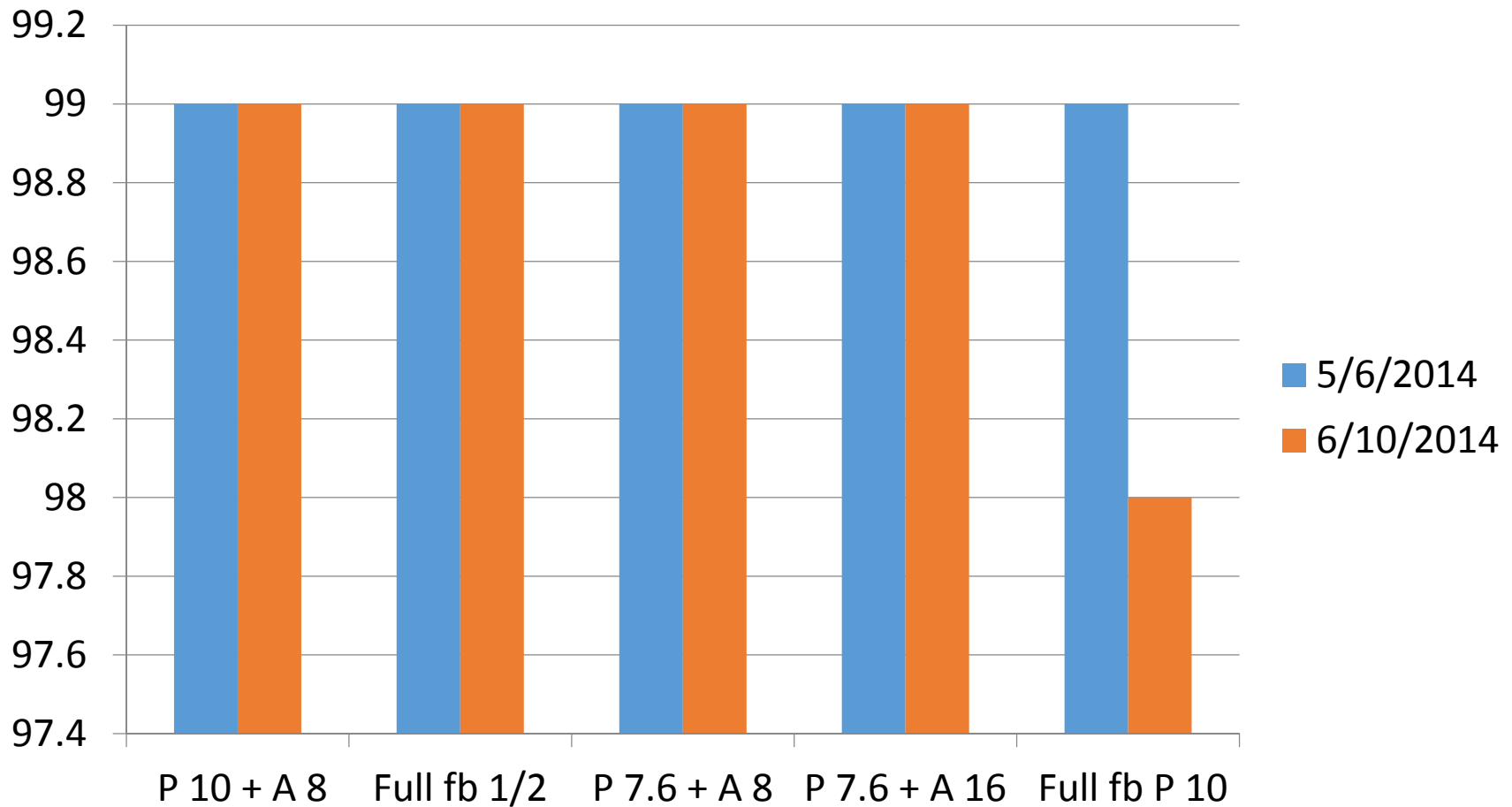
**2012**

**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<sup>®</sup> & imazapyr (excluded metsulfuron methyl because of Bahiagrass activity)**

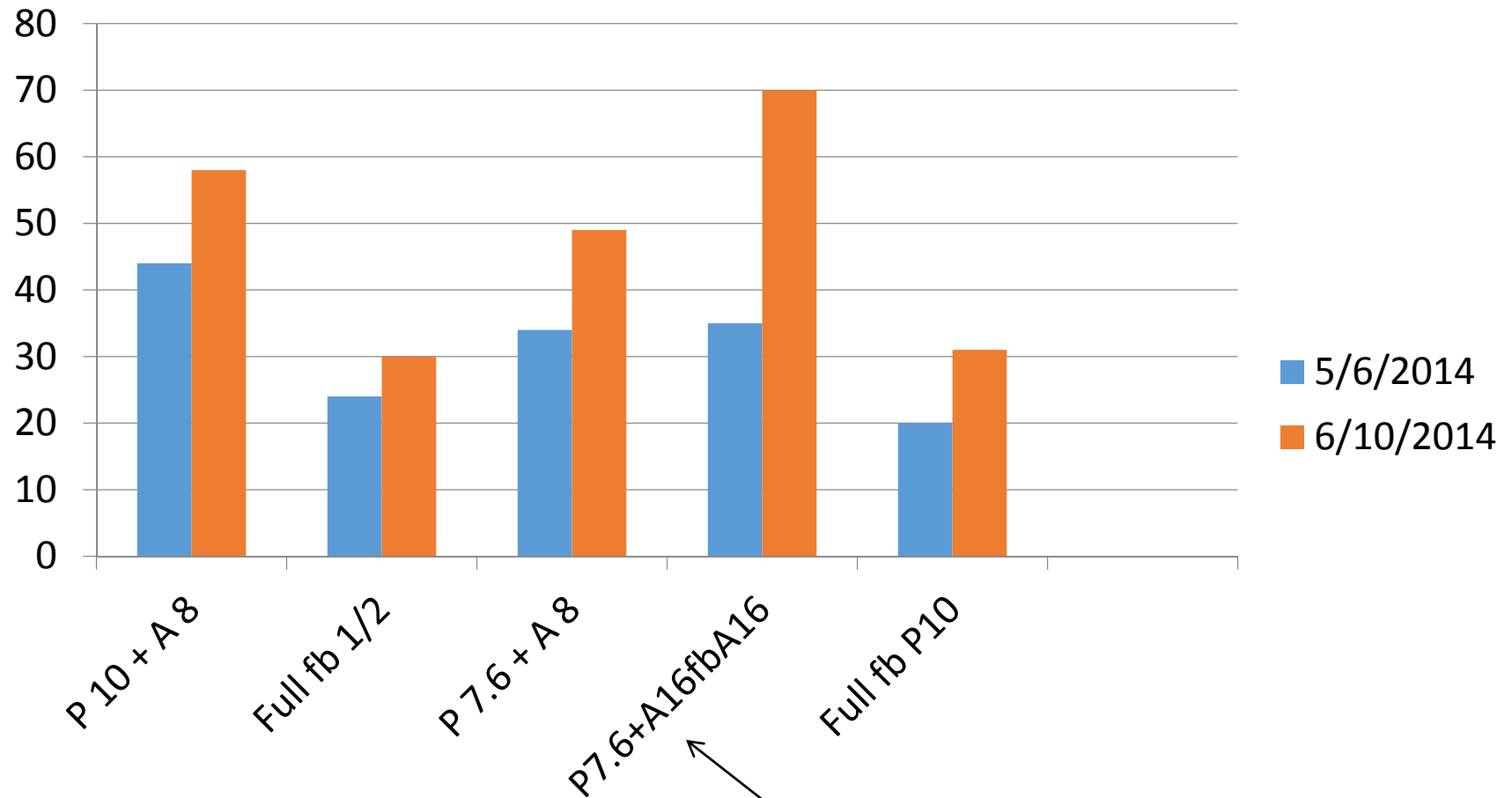
# Cogongrass control as affected by first and second year treatment; Perspective and Arsenal



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



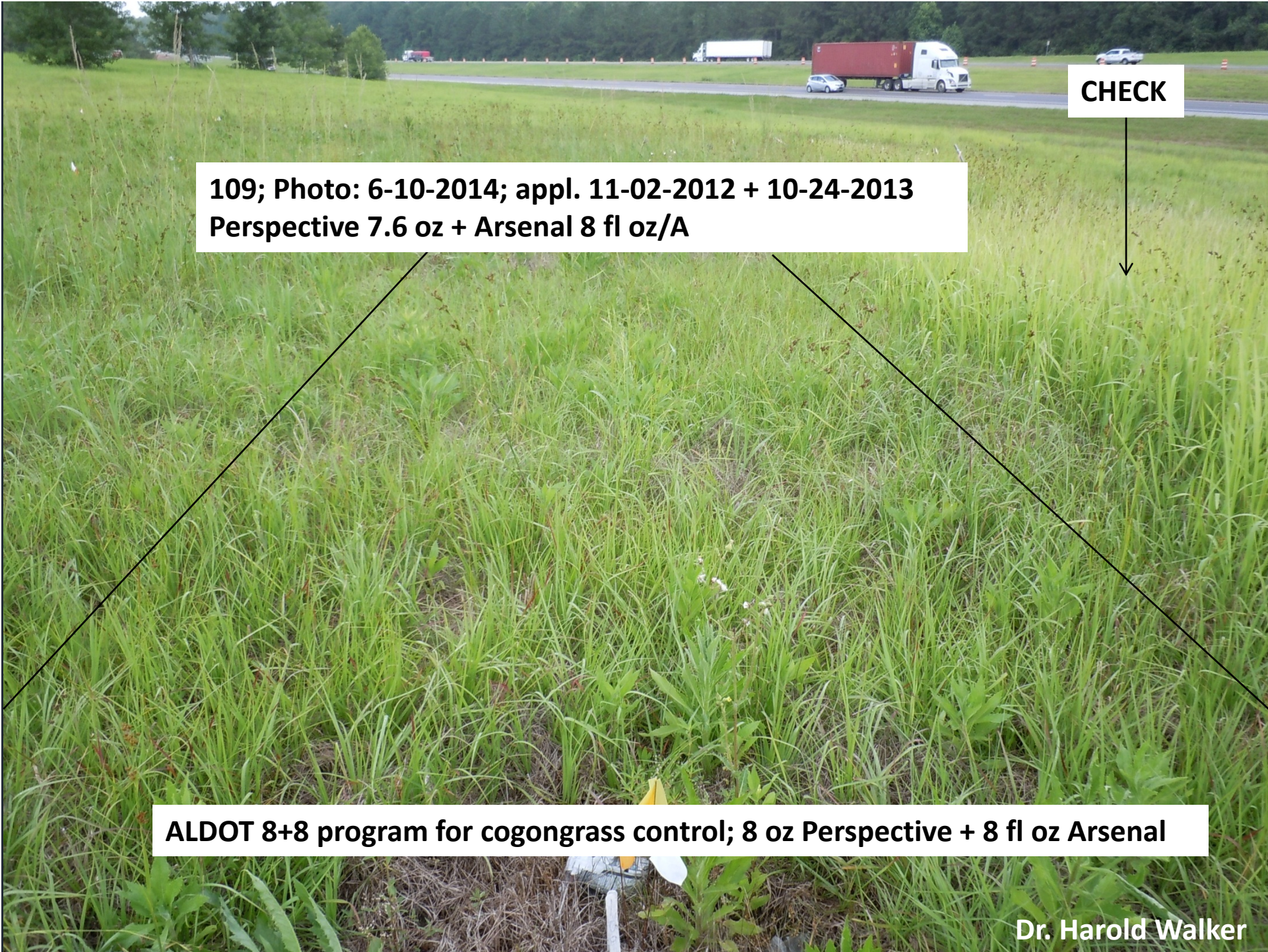
# Bahiagrass ground cover as affected by Perspective and Arsenal treatment over 2 years



Full = Perspective 10 + Arsenal 16 fl oz/A

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

Dr. Harold Walker



**109; Photo: 6-10-2014; appl. 11-02-2012 + 10-24-2013  
Perspective 7.6 oz + Arsenal 8 fl oz/A**

**CHECK**



**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**

# COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY

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















# **COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY**

**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**

# **COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY**

## **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**

# COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY

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

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Equipment

Landscaping / Tree line invasion

# COGONGRASS CONTROL STRATEGY

## 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."

