



MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No. 66

(April 1992)

CONTROL OF *COLOCASIA ESCULENTA* (songe)

This perennial herbaceous weed is exclusively found in humid conditions, along river banks, and in irrigation and drainage channels. It reproduces mainly vegetatively by means of its rhizomes which arise from the mother plants and by tubers. Mechanical cultivation cuts the tubers into pieces which are then disseminated to invade new areas.

CONTROL MEASURES

All treatments recommended, hereunder, are to be applied in post-emergence of the weed, when it has produced 2 to 3 leaves.

1. Non-crop land

One of the following treatments can be used:

Roundup @ 1.0 kg a.e/ha (1.25 l/arp)

Escort @ 0.03 kg a.l/ha (12 g a.l/arp)

2. Plant and ratoon cane

2.1 Escort at the same rate as above can be used but some cane varieties, e.g R 570, may show temporary growth stagnation.

2.2 A reasonable weed control can also be obtained with one of the following treatments, **in order of preference:**

Actril-DS @ 1.3 kg a.e/ha (0.75 l/arp)

MCPA @ 4.0 kg a.e/ha (4 l/arp)

2,4-D amine salt @ 3.0 kg a.e/ha (2 l/arp)

2.3 When cane has reached an average height of 110-120 cm, Roundup at the dosage given above can also be used, provided that spraying is directed so as to avoid the leaf canopy.

The rate of wetting agent or surfactant to be added to Escort should be 0.25% vol/vol, whereas for the two other chemicals needing these additives, namely 2,4-D and MCPA, the rate should be 0.03%.