Wild Poinsettia Identification And Control In Peanut

I. Introduction

Wild poinsettia, also known as painted leaf or Euphorbia heterophylla, is a native species found in the southeastern United States. It is a member of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) and is native to South America but has spread throughout the southern United States and is now considered an invasive species in many areas. It is a small, herbaceous plant that can grow up to 24 inches tall.

II. Identification

A. Morphology

Wild poinsettia has linear, lanceolate, and elliptic leaves with small red blotches. In some instances, the leaves may appear on the same plant when mature. Other identifying features include its milky, latex-like fluid when broken or crushed, which is similar to other members of the spurge family exude a milky, latex-like fluid when broken or crushed.

B. Growth and Development

Wild poinsettia plants have a short stature, with an average height of 1-2 inches. Seedlings emerge from depths of 51/2 inches but most emergence occurs from a depth of 1-2 inches. Seedlings have an average of 520 seeds per plant. Seedlings have a pH range of 2.5-10 and under limited moisture conditions. Wild poinsettia plants produce an average of 520 seeds per plant.

III. Control

A. Post-Emergence Control

For effective post-emergence control, it is recommended to use a combination of soil-applied herbicides and post-emergence herbicides. Pursuit R (imazethapyr) and Strongarm R (diclosulam) are the only two soil-applied herbicides labeled at this time that have good-to-excellent activity on wild poinsettia and can be used as part of a total management system once they are labeled.

B. Post-Emergence Control

With the fact that wild poinsettia can grow in wide grows, have a short plant stature, and develop throughout the growing year, it is important to maintain peanut weed-free. Wild poinsettia is very competitive with peanut. It is more competitive than sicklepod (Desmodium tortuosum) and Florida beggarweed (Senna obtusifolia) and peanut. Research has shown that peanut must be maintained weed-free from wild poinsettia for at least 10 weeks after emergence to prevent significant yield losses.

C. Other Herbicides

When using soil-applied herbicides, it is important to use a combination of herbicides. Pursuit R (imazethapyr) and Strongarm R (diclosulam) are the only two soil-applied herbicides labeled at this time that have good-to-excellent activity on wild poinsettia. Newer soil-applied peanut herbicides presently under development, including Spartan R (sulfentrazone) and Valor R (flumioxazin), also provide good-to-excellent control of wild poinsettia. Indaziflam (imazapic) before the plants exceed 2 inches in height can be obtained with a timely application of endothall and Gramoxone Max R. a- and postemergence herbicides. Pursuit R (imazethapyr) and Strongarm R (diclosulam) are the only two soil-applied herbicides labeled at this time that have good-to-excellent activity on wild poinsettia and can be used as part of a total management system once they are labeled.

D. Conclusion

The best approach to control weeds in peanuts is to use a combination of pre-emergence herbicides (such as 2,4-D and thiamethoxam) and post-emergence herbicides (such as wild poinsettia and paraquat) to control peanut. When effective post-emergence control is achieved, wild poinsettia populations are reduced and allow for more control of wild poinsettia. Application of 2,4-D and Gramoxone Max R. before the plants exceed 2 inches in height can be obtained with a timely application of endothall and Gramoxone Max R. 

References


Wild poinsettia identification and control in peanut. Weed Tech. 7:190-195.