

## Comments in Response to Ametryn Use in Hawaii Pineapple Production

Date: June 17, 2005

To: [Nicole Zinn](#)

U.S. EPA/OPP/BEAD

1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (7503C)

Washington, DC 20460-0001

Phone: (703) 308-7076

Fax: (703) 308-8090

From: [Dr. Michael Kawate](#)

[Cathy Tarutani](#)

Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences

3190 Maile Way, St. John 307

University of Hawaii

Honolulu, HI 96822

I have compiled responses to your questions into the [attached document](#). If you have any more questions or concerns, please contact either [Dr. Mike Kawate](#) or [me](#).

Aloha

Cathy

Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences

3190 Maile Way, St. John 307

University of Hawaii

Honolulu, HI 96822

June 18, 2005

Subject: Ametryn use in Hawai'i Pineapple Production

Response to questions from Nicole Zinn, EPA/BEAD (personal communication, June 14, 2005)

1. What weeds do the pineapple growers use ametryn to control? Any specific weeds in particular?

Ametryn is used as general broadleaf and grass control.

Important weeds in pineapple include:

Broadleaves:

*Amaranthus* spp.,  
*Emilia sonchifolia*,  
*Chenopodium carinatum*,  
*Ageratum conyzoides*,  
*Bidens pilosa*,  
*Erigeron canadensis*,  
*Ipomea* spp.,  
*Momordica* spp.

Grasses:

*Cenchrus echinatus*,  
*Chloris radiata*,  
*Cynodon dactylon*,  
*Digitaria sanguinalis*,  
*Eleusine indica*,  
*Paspalum* spp.,  
*Setaria verticillata*.

2. According to the crop profile, pineapple growers apply ametryn twice a year. Is this correct? If not, how often is ametryn applied?

Ametryn is used as a blanket spray immediately after planting, or after plant crop harvest is completed and before weeds emerge. This means, there is only 1 application per acre year.

3. What percentage of the acres in pineapple production is treated with ametryn? (The crop profile says 100% of all pineapple acres in Hawaii.)

100% is correct.

4. How is ametryn applied to pineapple? (For example, it is applied to the whole field? To the rows? In the middle?)

Broadcast as a uniform or even application to an entire specific area.

5. What alternatives do you have to ametryn?

Other herbicides that may be applied post plant include bromacil, diuron, quazilifop-butyl and hexazone. But, there is a severe limitation to their use because of phytotoxicity to the pineapple crop (bromacil and hexazone).

Concern was also expressed that ametryn is the only herbicide effective for control of a very important weed pest, morningglory (*Ipomea* spp.).

6. What would pineapple growers do or what would they use if ametryn were not available?

Not having ametryn would represent a greater use of other registered herbicides, increasing potential environmental problems, phytotoxic effect on the pineapple crop, negatively impacting yield and an increase in manual weeding cost.

**Response compiled and submitted by:**

Dr. Michael Kawate

voice: 808/956-6008

e-mail: mike@hpirs.stjohn.hawaii.edu

Cathy Tarutani

voice: 808/956-2004

e-mail: cathy@hpirs.stjohn.hawaii.edu

Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences

3190 Maile Way, St John 307

University of Hawai'i

Honolulu, HI 96822