

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences

June 21, 2007

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Coordinator - Weed Science
IR-4 Project

Subject: **Fluazifop data call-in**

The following comments are being submitted in response to the May 9, 2007 email message requesting information about the importance of fluazifop to producers of endive, sweet potato and rhubarb. These comments are being submitted on behalf of the Western Integrated Pest Management Center and provide input on the use of fluazifop in Hawai'i.

Fusilade is one of the most important herbicides for production of **sweet potato** in Hawai'i. There are only a small number of herbicides for use on sweet potato, even fewer for post-emergence grass management. Our tropical grasses are very competitive and will eventually appear in the sweet potato fields. In Hawai'i, sweet potato farmers must wait four months during the summer and 5-6 months during the winter for crop to mature. By then, grasses can take over the fields and cause economic losses.

If the pre-harvest interval becomes longer than the currently-labeled there may be problems for the summer crop, when there are fewer days required for the crop to mature.

Note: Coffee was not a specific subject of this query. However, we have received follow-up communications informing us that fluazifop is critical for coffee production in Hawai'i. Grasses present common and serious problems for Hawai'i's coffee producers and Fusilade is the only selective herbicide available to them. They would like to emphasize their need to retain the use of fluazifop at current label rates.

Information for these comments was provided by Extension personnel of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and a coffee industry representative.

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