

THE SUGAR BULLETIN

The mission of the American Sugar Cane League is to sustain success through effective research, positive legislation, public relations/promotion, and education.



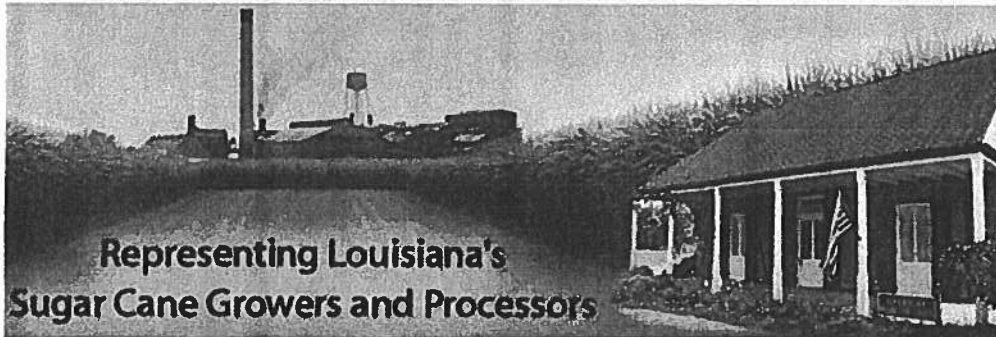
**American
Sugar Cane
League**
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Making Life Sweeter. Naturally

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**Representing Louisiana's
Sugar Cane Growers and Processors**

Managing Ryegrass in Sugarcane

by Dr. Al Orgeron
LSU AgCenter

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Barn Yard Fab

Kevin Rodrigue 1276 Hwy 20
Phone: 985-665-5595 Thibodaux, La 70301
Fax: 985-633-2595 kevinrodrigue@att.net

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Life Sweeter.

As grinding begins I'm sure one of the last things on your mind is controlling winter weeds. For the past few years, numerous producers have contacted me about the increasing quantity of ryegrass on their farm and their failed attempts controlling it with both pre- and postemergence herbicides.

Battling ryegrass begins with the application of preemergence herbicides, but timing can be tricky. In newly planted cane fields, germination of ryegrass typically begins in late-October or early-November, so targeting a preemergence herbicide application in the third or fourth week of October is key.

Some growers have utilized metribuzin, atrazine, or diuron successfully to manage ryegrass prior to its emergence, and it is still a viable option for their operation. However, some growers have had efficacy issues over the last few years with metribuzin, atrazine, and diuron even when applied in a timely fashion and with adequate activating rainfall.

If you are in a situation where the previously mentioned herbicides have not provided the preemergence ryegrass control that you desired, Lumax EZ herbicide is another option. Lumax EZ was labeled for use in sugarcane in 2017 and it is a mixture of three active

ingredients, one of which is extremely effective in controlling ryegrass. Lumax EZ also does an excellent job in controlling most other winter grass and broadleaf weeds. The rate for emerged cane is 1.5 to 3 qt/A, and it can be applied over-the-top without issue.

All preemergence herbicides need about a half-inch of rainfall to be moved into the soil solution and become activated. Rainfall events can be rare in October but may occur with the passage of a cold front.

In situations where ryegrass becomes established in cane, the only postemergence herbicide option for management is paraquat. Beginning on November 14, 2019, all marketed paraquat products will have an amended new label. The new label requires successful completion of paraquat-specific training in order to purchase, handle, or apply paraquat products. This training is only offered online and can be accessed at www.usparaquattraining.com.

Remember to read and follow all herbicide labels. More information on sugarcane herbicide options can be found in LSU AgCenter's Weed Guide which is available online at http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/publications/management_guides.