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Herbicides for Melon Weed Control

The Spring Melon planting season is in progress, and we believe this is a good time to refresh our memory of the herbicides used in this crop, so here's a brief review:

Prefar (Bensulide)

Application is preemergence to control summer and winter annual grasses as well as purslane and pig weed (small-seeded broadleaf weeds) Prefar can be applied either before or after planting, but before weeds emerge. It sticks very strongly to the soil and must be incorporated with as much overhead water as possible. It has been found in U of A trials that performance increased with a higher amount of sprinkler irrigation applied.

Curbit (Ethafluralin)

Occasionally used as a preemergence herbicide for control of grassweeds and a few small-seeded broadleaved weeds. Possible injury can occur when product concentrates too close to germinating melon seed.

Treflan (Trifluralin) and Dacthal (DCPA)

Both can used as layby applications before weeds have emerged. Could cause stunting of the crop if applied too early

Poast (Sethoxydim) and Select (Clethodim)

These products have registration on melons for grass control. With postemergence application control the majority of annual grasses. The only exception is Red sprangletop (*Leptochloa filiformis*) and Mexican sprangletop (*Leptochloa uninervia*). Which is only controlled with clethodim.

Sandea (Halosulfuron)

Shows good efficacy on nutsedge and broadleaf weeds. It can be applied safely after crop has developed four leaves and before flowers appear.

Additional information can be obtained in the following [Melon Weed Control Chart](#) found in the Section VI of the Arizona PCA study guide.