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Effect of post emergence herbicides and their mixture on growth, yield and quality of soybean (*Glycine max* L.)

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted on medium black calcareous clayey soil at Junagadh (Gujarat) during Kharif 2018-19 and 2019-20 to study the effect of post emergence herbicides and their mixture on growth, yield and quality of Soybean (*Glycine Max* L.). The experiment comprising 12 treatments of various combinations of herbicides were replicated thrice in a randomized block design. The experimental results revealed that next to the weed free, IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS, pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* IC & HW at 30 DAS, pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS and pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS enhanced growth parameters *viz.*, plant height, branches/plant, number and dry weight of root nodules/plant, dry matter/plant yield attributes like, number of pods/plant and ultimately gave higher seed and stover yields along with improved quality parameters *viz.*, protein content for cultivation of soybean under South Saurashtra Agro-climatic Zone of Gujarat.

Keywords: Soybean, herbicide, hand weeding, post-emergence

Introduction

The soybean (*Glycine max* L.) or soya bean is a species of legume native to East Asia, widely grown for its edible bean. Soybean is one of the most important crops in the world. This has numerous uses. Soybean has established its recognition as both a pulse and an oilseed crop and ranks third among oilseed crop grown in India.

Weed control is a practice of great importance for obtaining high soybean yields. Weed species is a serious problem for the soybean crops and its control is needed especially in infested sides. Therefore, weed management is an integral part of soybean production. Recently, research has reported that the density and distribution of weed species in the soybean plantations are significant parameters on yield losses. This happens because the weed species competes with the sunlight, water and nutrients, and may, depending on the level of infestation and species, hamper harvesting operations and compromise the quality of soybean grains. Other important biological factors in weed management decisions include weed and crop density, seed bank processes, demographic variation, weed-crop competition, and reproductive biology.

Being a rainy season crop, it suffer severely due to weed stress which is a major constraints in soybean production. Yield reduction in soybean due to poor weeds management ranges from 35 to 50 per cent depending on weed flora and their density. Although weeds pose problems during the entire crop period, but the first 30- 45 days of the crops are the most critical (Panneerselvam and Lourduraj, 2000) [13]. Therefore, major emphasis on control should be given during this period. Hand weeding is a traditional and effective method of weed control, but unavailability of labour during peak period of demand and hindrance of crop for manual weeding due to unpredictable continuous rains in the growing period make weed management in soybean a challenging task while mechanical means generally leads to root injury (Lal *et al.*, 2016) [10]. Under such situations weed management through the herbicide application remains the only viable option.

Materials and methods

A field experiment titled "Effect of post emergence herbicides and their mixture on growth, yield and quality of Soybean (*Glycine Max* L.)" was carried out at Weed Control Research Scheme, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh (Gujarat) during Kharif season of the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 on clayey soil.

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The experiment having 12 treatment combinations was laid out in randomized block design with three replications *viz.*, Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* IC & HW at 30 DAS

(T₁), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* imazethapyr 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₂), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* propaquizafop 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₃), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* fluazifop-p-butyl 125 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₄), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* fomesafen 250 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₅), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₆), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix imazethapyr + imazamox 35 + 35 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₇), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix fluazifop-p-butyl + fomesafen 125 + 125 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₈), Pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₉), IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS (T₁₀), Weed free check (T₁₁) and Unweeded control (T₁₂) with gross and net plot sizes of 5.0 m x 3.6 m and 4.0 m x 2.7 m, respectively. The soybean (*cv.* GJS-3) was sown with standard package of practices. Irrigation to 5 cm depth applied during cropping period. Five random plants were selected from each plot excluding the border row for taking observation on growth, yield and quality parameters.

Results and discussion

Effect on growth and yield attributes

Growth parameters *viz.*, plant height, number of branches/plant, dry matter/plant (g) and yield attributes like, number of pods/plant at harvest (Table 1) were significantly influenced by different treatments.

Significantly higher values of growth parameters *viz.*, plant height, number of branches per plant, dry matter per plant harvest and yield attributes like, number of pods/plant at

harvest were observed under the weed free check (T₁₁), but it was found statistically at par with IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS (T₁₀), pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* IC & HW at 30 DAS (T₁), pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₆) and pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₉) in most of the cases in pooled data.

Effective control of weeds through manual weeding in the weed free check (T₁₁), IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS (T₁₀) as well as combination of pre-emergence herbicide with manual weeding under application of pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* IC & HW at 30 DAS (T₁). While, improved growth parameters and yield parameters under the application of pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₆) and pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₉) were attributed to better control of weeds from initial stage by pre-emergence application of pendimethalin and post-emergence application of pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr or sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl as evidenced by less crop-weed competition throughout growth period of the crop, less count and dry weight of weeds, which might have resulted in better availability of space, sunlight, moisture and nutrients to the crop in absence of weeds. Thus, increased water and nutrient uptake, which might have accelerated photosynthetic rate, thereby increasing the supply of carbohydrates, resulted in cell division, multiplication and elongation leading to increase in growth character and yield attributes. These findings are in agreement with those of Gohil (2015) [4, 5], Jakhar and Sharma (2015) [9], Muttanna (2015) [11], Sandil *et al.*, (2015) [16], Harithavardhini *et al.*, (2017) [7], Nishant (2018) [12], Rohit and Narayan (2018) [15] and Patil *et al.*, (2019) [14].

Table 1: Effect of different treatments on growth and yield attributes of soybean at harvest (Pooled over two years)

Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Number of branches/plant	Dry matter/plant (g)	Number of pods/plant
T ₁ :IC & HW at 30 DAS	52.56 ^{ab}	6.03 ^{ab}	31.77 ^a	49.86 ^{ab}
T ₂ :Imazethapyr 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	48.27 ^{bc}	5.17 ^{cde}	26.20 ^b	47.81 ^b
T ₃ :Propaquizafop 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	47.14 ^c	4.62 ^{ef}	22.56 ^c	40.16 ^{cd}
T ₄ :Fluazifop-p-butyl 125 g/ha at 30DAS	46.85 ^c	4.38 ^f	20.26 ^d	36.79 ^d
T ₅ :Fomesafen 250 g/ha at 30 DAS	46.64 ^c	4.20 ^f	19.24 ^d	36.60 ^d
T ₆ :Pre-mix Propaquizafop + Imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	51.50 ^{abc}	5.87 ^{abc}	31.51 ^a	49.57 ^{ab}
T ₇ :Pre-mix Imazethapyr + Imazamox 35 + 35 g/ha at 30 DAS	49.84 ^{abc}	5.23 ^{cde}	26.58 ^b	48.80 ^{ab}
T ₈ :Pre-mix Fluazifop-p-butyl + Fomesafen 125 + 125 g/ha at 30 DAS	47.5 ^{bc}	4.92 ^{def}	23.45 ^c	42.56 ^c
T ₉ :Pre-mix Sodium Acifluorfen + Clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS	50.31 ^{abc}	5.57 ^{bcd}	27.64 ^b	48.84 ^{ab}
T ₁₀ :IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS	52.70 ^{ab}	6.10 ^{ab}	32.37 ^a	50.20 ^{ab}
T ₁₁ :Weed free check	55.02 ^a	6.40 ^a	33.42 ^a	53.70 ^a
T ₁₂ :Unweeded control	37.61 ^d	3.13 ^e	16.27 ^e	16.60 ^e
S.Em.±	1.61	0.24	0.72	1.74
C.D. at 5%	4.58	0.68	2.05	4.96
C.V.%	8.06	11.35	6.81	9.81

Note: Pendimethalin 900 g/ha was applied as pre-emergence in the treatments T₁ to T₉. Treatment means with the letter/letters in common are not significant by Duncan's New Multiple Rang Test at 5% level of significance.

Effect on crop yield

A perusal of data revealed that different weed management treatments exhibited their significant influence on seed and stover yields (Table 2) of soybean. Significantly higher seed and stover yields of soybean were recorded under the weed free check (T₁₁), but it remained statistically equivalent to IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS (T₁₀), pendimethalin 900 g/ha as

pre-emergence *fb* IC & HW at 30 DAS (T₁), pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₆) and pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₉) in 2018, 2019 and pooled data. The magnitude of increase in seed yield of soybean with the T₁₁, T₁₀, T₁, T₆ and T₉ was to the

tune of 145.8, 141.0 and 143.3%, 135.6, 129.5 and 132.5%, 123.4, 127.9 and 125.7%, 119.0, 122.0 and 120.5% and 112.9, 107.2 and 110.0% over T₁₂ in 2018, 2019 and pooled results, respectively. Similarly, the extent of increase in stover yield of soybean with the T₁₁, T₁₀, T₁, T₆ and T₉ over the treatment T₁₂ was 101.9, 106.2 and 104.1%, 96.1, 98.4 and 97.3%, 89.7, 87.1 and 88.4%, 87.5, 85.7 and 86.6% and 82.7, 79.7 and 81.2% in 2018, 2019 and pooled results, respectively.

Pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr and sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl are post-emergence herbicides with broad spectrum activity on grasses and broad-leaved weeds compared to the unweeded control and the other herbicide treatments, thereby resulting in a significant increase in soybean yield. The present findings are within the close vicinity of those reported with different weed management treatments by Gohil *et al.*, (2015) [4, 5], Ahirwar *et al.*, (2018) [1], Jai *et al.*, (2018) [8], Anuj *et al.*, (2019) [2].

Table 2: Effect of different treatments on yield of soybean at harvest

Treatment	Seed yield (kg/ha)			Stover yield (kg/ha)		
	2018	2019	Pooled	2018	2019	Pooled
T ₁ :IC & HW at 30 DAS	2034 ^{abc}	2145 ^a	2090 ^{ab}	3584 ^a	3639 ^a	3611 ^{ab}
T ₂ :Imazethapyr 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	1580 ^{cde}	1759 ^{abc}	1670 ^{cde}	2675 ^{bc}	2764 ^{bcd}	2720 ^c
T ₃ :Propaquizafop 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	1349 ^{defg}	1392 ^{cde}	1370 ^{ef}	2243 ^{cd}	2367 ^{de}	2305 ^{cde}
T ₄ :Fluazifop-p-butyl 125 g/ha at 30DAS	1194 ^{efg}	1244 ^{de}	1219 ^{fg}	2215 ^{cd}	2350 ^{de}	2282 ^{cde}
T ₅ :Fomesafen 250 g/ha at 30 DAS	1003 ^{fg}	1056 ^{de}	1029 ^g	2091 ^{cd}	2228 ^{de}	2159 ^{de}
T ₆ :Pre-mix Propaquizafop + Imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	1994 ^{abc}	2090 ^a	2042 ^{ab}	3543 ^a	3611 ^a	3577 ^{ab}
T ₇ :Pre-mix Imazethapyr + Imazamox 35 + 35 g/ha at 30 DAS	1710 ^{bcd}	1806 ^{abc}	1758 ^{bcd}	3133 ^{ab}	3291 ^{abc}	3212 ^b
T ₈ :Pre-mix Fluazifop-p-butyl + Fomesafen 125 + 125 g/ha at 30 DAS	1444 ^{def}	1497 ^{bcd}	1471 ^{def}	2433 ^{cd}	2574 ^{cde}	2504 ^{cd}
T ₉ :Pre-mix Sodium Acifluorfen + Clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS	1938 ^{abc}	1951 ^{ab}	1944 ^{abc}	3452 ^a	3494 ^{ab}	3473 ^{ab}
T ₁₀ :IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS	2145 ^{ab}	2160 ^a	2153 ^a	3704 ^a	3858 ^a	3781 ^a
T ₁₁ :Weed free check	2238 ^a	2269 ^a	2253 ^a	3814 ^a	4009 ^a	3912 ^a
T ₁₂ :Unweeded control	910 ^g	941 ^e	926 ^g	1889 ^d	1944 ^e	1917 ^e
S.Em.±	155	154	109	222	243	164
C.D. at 5%	454	454	312	652	714	470
C.V.%	16.50	15.85	16.17	13.30	14.01	13.68

Note: Pendimethalin 900 g/ha was applied as pre-emergence in the treatments T₁ to T₉. Treatment means with the letter/letters in common are not significant by Duncan's New Multiple Rang Test at 5% level of significance.

Effect on quality parameters

The effect of different weed management treatments found significant on seed protein content and oil yield (Table 3) in pooled data. Significantly higher seed protein content and oil yield were recorded under the weed free check (T₁₁), which was followed by IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS (T₁₀), pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* IC & HW at 30 DAS (T₁), pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop + imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₆) and pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS (T₉). This can be ascribed to better control of weeds

by manual weeding and herbicides as compared to the unweeded condition, which might have increased absorption of nitrogen and water by the crop and the least by weeds which in turn enhanced assimilation of nitrogen leading to increased synthesis of amino acid so that increased the seed protein content. Higher seed yield with the above mentioned treatments ultimately resulted in higher oil yield. A glance of oil content data revealed that there was no significant effect weed management treatments in pooled results (Table 2). Similar results have been found by Gupta and Saxena (2008) [6] and Bharat *et al.*, (2019) [3].

Table 3: Effect of different treatments on quality parameters of soybean (Pooled over two years)

Treatment	Protein content (%)	Oil content (%)	Oil yield (kg/ha)
T ₁ :IC & HW at 30 DAS	33.3 ^{ab}	20.22	421 ^{ab}
T ₂ :Imazethapyr 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	30.07 ^{cd}	19.52	326 ^{de}
T ₃ :Propaquizafop 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	29.41 ^d	18.70	255 ^f
T ₄ :Fluazifop-p-butyl 125 g/ha at 30DAS	29.41 ^d	18.64	227 ^{fg}
T ₅ :Fomesafen 250 g/ha at 30 DAS	29.22 ^d	18.12	186 ^g
T ₆ :Pre-mix Propaquizafop + Imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS	32.64 ^{ab}	20.04	410 ^{abc}
T ₇ :Pre-mix Imazethapyr + Imazamox 35 + 35 g/ha at 30 DAS	30.55 ^{cd}	19.64	344 ^{cde}
T ₈ :Pre-mix Fluazifop-p-butyl + Fomesafen 125 + 125 g/ha at 30 DAS	29.98 ^{cd}	19.49	284 ^{ef}
T ₉ :Pre-mix Sodium Acifluorfen + Clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS	31.50 ^{bc}	19.92	388 ^{bcd}
T ₁₀ :IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS	33.59 ^a	20.53	443 ^{ab}
T ₁₁ :Weed free check	33.88 ^a	20.64	465 ^a
T ₁₂ :Unweeded control	28.93 ^d	17.37	161 ^g
S.Em.±	0.60	0.73	22.01
C.D. at 5%	1.71	NS	62.72
C.V.%	4.73	9.26	16.55

Note: Pendimethalin 900 g/ha was applied as pre-emergence in the treatments T₁ to T₉. Treatment means with the letter/letters in common are not significant by Duncan's New Multiple Rang Test at 5% level of significance.

Conclusion

On the basis of the results obtained from the present two-year field experimentation, it seems quite logical to conclude that

higher growth attributes, yield attributes and yield and quality of Soybean (*cv.* GJS-3) can be secured by pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix propaquizafop +

imazethapyr 50 + 75 g/ha at 30 DAS or pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* pre-mix sodium acifluorfen + clodinafop-propargyl 80 + 165 g/ha at 30 DAS. Alternatively, pendimethalin 900 g/ha as pre-emergence *fb* either IC & HW at 30 DAS or IC & HW at 15 and 30 DAS can be employed according to availability of labourers under medium black calcareous clayey soil of South Saurashtra Agro-climatic Zone.

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