

# UGA Weed Control Programs FOR SWEET POTATO IN 2018

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Crop rotation, tillage, and a sound herbicide program are all critical components for long-term success growing sweet potatoes. This circular focuses on developing sound herbicide programs while minimizing crop injury for transplant production systems. A new indemnified label for Dual Magnum has greatly improved weed control options, and growers must have these labels in hand at time of application. It is critical for growers to understand that their specific production practices may alter weed and crop responses.

***Growers must evaluate these programs on limited acres until gaining experience.***

## *Important Considerations*

- No effective herbicide is currently available to control nutsedge. Ideally, avoid fields heavily infested with nutsedge. Maximum rates of glyphosate preplant and tillage are the most effective options.
- Devrinol is labeled for sweet potato production fields and is effective on a few small-seeded broadleaf and grass weeds. Research has not noted a benefit when adding Devrinol to the program above.



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» **Step 1:** Fields must be free of weeds when planting. **Tillage, Roundup, and Gramoxone** are all effective tools. For fields with a flush of difficult-to-control weeds prior to planting, apply Roundup (max rate for nutsedge) and then follow with Gramoxone five to seven days after the Roundup and at least a day prior to planting.

» **Step 2:** **Valor SX 51 WDG** (up to 2.5 oz/acre) should improve weed control in nearly every Georgia field. It should be applied two to five days prior to transplanting to the preformed row. **Do not** incorporate and minimize movement of soil during transplanting. **Do not** apply after transplanting. Label says not to use greenhouse-grown transplants and to test a small area for new cultivars.

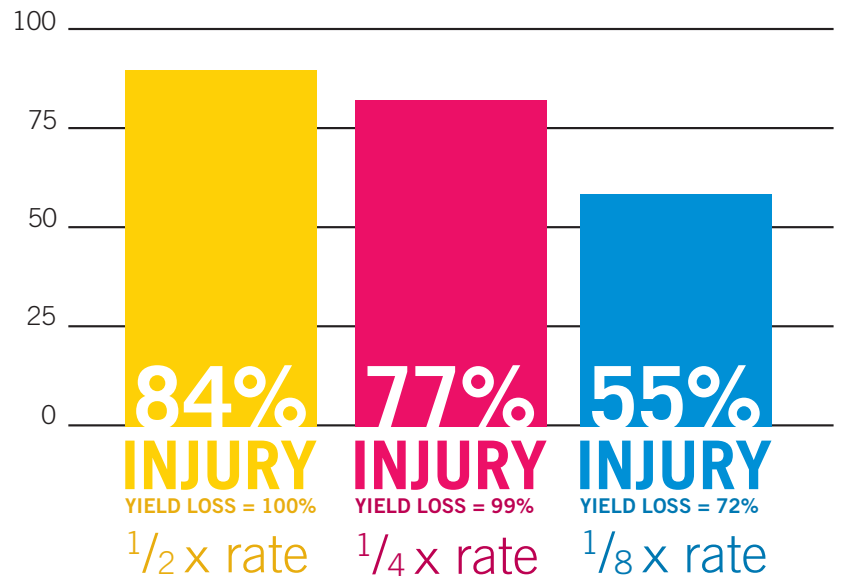
» **Step 3:** **Command 3 ME** (up to 1.5 pt/acre) should be applied **post-transplant** within five days of transplanting for pre-emergence control of annual grasses and a few broadleaf weeds. Roots must be below the surface where spraying will occur. Command has great crop tolerance, but growers must review its label regarding buffers and rotational restrictions.

» **Step 4:** **Dual Magnum** can be used **post** as long as the applicator obtains the indemnified label prior to application (see next page). Research has shown stunting from Dual Magnum if applied too closely to planting, so growers should experiment with applications two to three weeks after transplanting. Rates should range from 8-12 oz/acre. Sequential applications can be made as long as the total use rate does not exceed 1.33 pt/acre and applications are not made within 40 days of harvest.

» **Step 5:** **Select and Poast** can be applied to control small annual grasses up until 30 days of harvest.

- Command poses serious carryover risks and has buffers. Check labels closely before use.
- Be aware of potential carryover from previously used herbicides, especially Cadre (Figure 1).
- Do not apply Dual Magnum preplant or pre.
- Plowing is very effective.  
If plowing, follow immediately with a residual herbicide.
- Use conservative herbicide rates on sandy soils with low organic matter and/or with intense irrigation.
- Successful weed management depends on residual herbicides that need to be activated by rainfall or irrigation within one or two days of application.
- Always follow herbicide label restrictions, and read labels for potential injury or carryover concerns.

**Figure 1.** Sweet potato response to Cadre.



*Yield loss is U.S. No.1 fruit; Veg 14-15*

## *Process for Georgia Growers to Obtain Dual Magnum and Reflex Indemnified Labels*

1. [www.farmassist.com](http://www.farmassist.com)
2. Crop protection
3. Indemnified labels
4. Login (or create login and password)
5. Georgia; Dual Magnum or Reflex; crop of interest
6. Accept waiver
7. Print label and have present during application

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