

Weed Management Recommendations for Specialty Cut Flower Production

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Michigan ranks 7th in the nation for the specialty cut flower production. Weed control is an important aspect to consider for successful cut flower production. Weeds can compete for water, nutrients, space, harbor pests and pathogens and thereby reduce the flower yield. Many of these specialty cut flowers are very sensitive to chemicals and hence choosing the right weed control methods is very important. Non-chemical methods may include organic and inorganic mulching, strategic fertilizer placements within the containers, field preparation, cultivation and spacing, proper sanitation practices, and hand weeding. However, only non-chemical options may not be sufficient for effective weed control and hence there is a need for chemical control. Chemical control will include application of both preemergence and postemergence herbicides. For field production there can be both selective and non-selective broad spectrum postemergent herbicides for weed control. Whereas, for enclosed structures such as greenhouse production systems have limitations of herbicide usage. Only specific synthetic and organic products that are labeled to be used inside enclosed structures can be used. In this session control options of difficult-to-control weeds species such as yellow nutsedge, thistles, lambsquarters, horsetail etc. will be discussed. In summary, there is no single weed control method that can eradicate all weed species. The success of weed control lies with the integrated weed control approach where two or more methods are applied to suppress weed growth and maximize flower production.