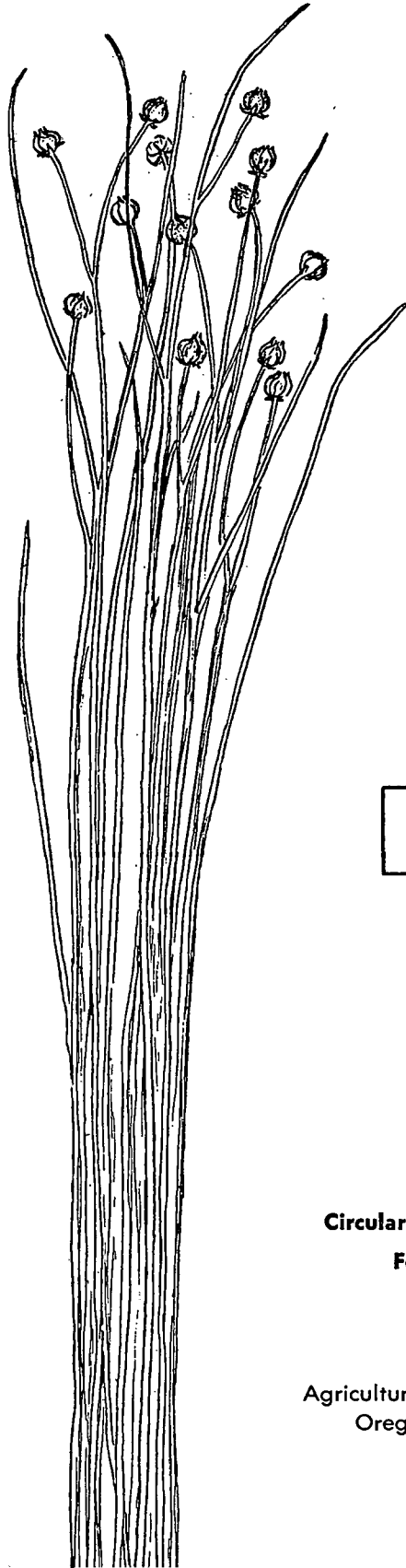

Chemical Weed Control in Fiber Flax

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Chemicals Will Control Broadleaf Weeds in Flax

Flax does not compete well with weeds. It is important to select fields that are not infested with uncontrollable weeds.

Dinitro

The standard method for controlling weeds with chemicals has been to spray with the ammonium salt of dinitro phenol (Dow Selective or Sinox W) when the flax is 2 to 4 inches tall. Apply at the rate of 2 to 3 quarts in 100 gallons of water per acre. It is safest to spray when there is no dew on the flax, and the humidity is not excessively high. This treatment will kill many broadleaved weeds that are easy to wet with this chemical. *Do not use a wetting agent or sticker spreader with Dinitro.* One of the difficulties is that results vary depending on age of weeds, type of weeds present, and climatic conditions following application. This treatment has the added limitation of not controlling perennial-type weeds.

MCP

Research conducted at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station for the past 3 years has shown that fiber flax may be sprayed safely with either the sodium or amine salts of MCP when it is in the 2- to 8-inch stage of growth. The material can be applied at the rate of ½ to ¾ pound of active ingredient in 10 or more gallons of water per acre. This treatment will cause the flax to curl for a few days but it soon recovers and makes normal growth. Most weeds sensitive to 2,4-D are killed. These include most annual broadleaved species and many perennial plants such as Canada thistle. Some weeds, such as dog fennel, are not killed by this material. *Do not use 2,4-D on fiber flax.*

Dinitro or MCP?

The decision on whether to use MCP or Dinitro will depend largely on the type of weeds present. Where weeds are largely those that have not been controlled effectively in the past with Dinitro—particularly perennial weeds such as Canada thistle—then MCP may be used. Where dog fennel and similar weeds sensitive to Dinitro are the main ones present, this material would give the best results. MCP fails to control dog fennel. *Do not mix MCP and Dinitro. Only one of these materials should be used during a crop year.*

Grasses such as ryegrass are often a problem in fiber flax. There has been a lot of research conducted in an effort to find a selective material for controlling this type of weed, but to date nothing has been found that will control grass-type weeds without flax injury.

Weed Control Recommendations for Fiber Flax

Chemical	Weeds controlled	Rate/acre	Time of application	Remarks
Dinitro (Dow Selective or Sinox W)	Most annual broadleaf types.	2 to 3 quarts in 100 gallons of water.	When flax is 2 to 4 inches tall.	Should not be used if dew is present, or when humidity is high. *Do not use* a wetting agent.
MCP (Amine or sodium salt)	Most broadleaf annuals and perennials such as Canada thistle.	½ to ¾ lb. in 10 or more gallons of water.	When flax is 2 to 8 inches tall.	The most effective results will be obtained when weeds are small. *Do not* add a wetting agent.