

## 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. 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; 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; thus, **growers must evaluate these programs on limited acres until gaining experience.**

### Step 1.

Fields must be weed free 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 5-7 days after the Roundup and at least a day prior to planting.

### Step 2.

**Valor SX 51 WDG** (up to 2.5 oz/A) would improve weed control in nearly every Georgia field. It should be applied 2 to 5 days prior to transplanting to the pre-formed row. DO NOT incorporate and minimize movement of soil during transplanting. DO NOT apply after transplanting. Label notes to not use greenhouse grown transplants and to test a small area for new cultivars.

### Step 3.

**Command 3 ME** (up to 1.5 pt/A) should be applied POST-transplant within 5 days of transplanting for preemergence control of annual grasses and a few broadleaf weeds. Roots must be below surface where spray will occur. Great crop tolerance but one must review label regarding buffers and rotational restrictions with Command.

### Step 4.

**Dual Magnum** can be used POST as long as the applicator obtains the indemnified label prior to application (see back on steps to obtain label). Research has shown stunting from Dual Magnum if applied too closely to planting; thus experimenting with applications 2 to 3 weeks after transplanting is suggested. Rates should range from 8-12 oz/A. Sequential applications can be made as long as the total use rate does not exceed 1.33 pt/A and applications are not made within 40 days of harvest.

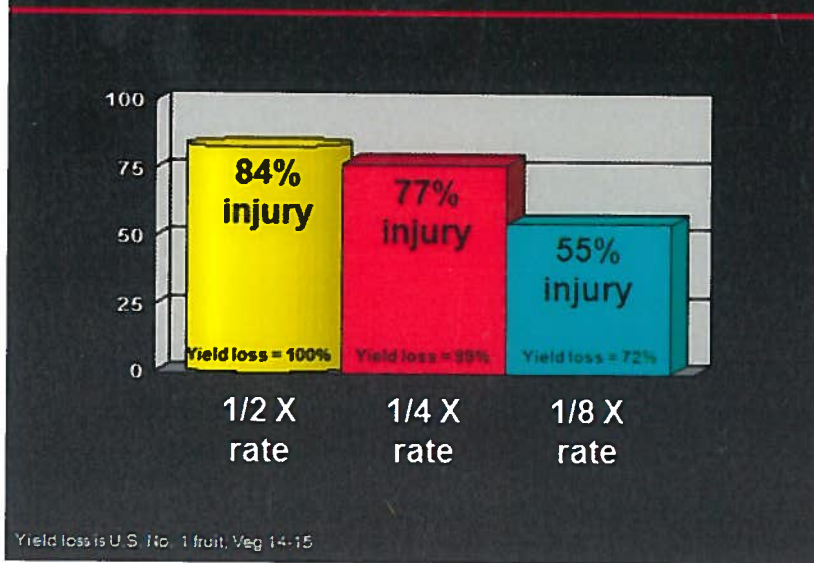
### Step 5.

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

### Critical Thinking Points!

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Command poses serious carryover risks and has buffers, check labels closely before use.
4. Be aware of potential carryover from previously used herbicides, especially Cadre (Figure 1).
5. DO NOT APPLY DUAL MAGNUM PREPLANT OR PRE.
6. Plowing is very effective; if plowing, suggest follow immediately with a residual herbicide.
7. Use conservative herbicide rates on sandy soils with low organic matter and/or with intense irrigation.
8. Successful weed management depends on residual herbicides that need to be activated by rainfall or irrigation within a day or two of application.
9. Always follow herbicide label restrictions; read labels for potential injury or carryover concerns.

**Figure 1. Sweet Potato Response To Cadre**



## Process for GA Growers To Obtain Dual Magnum and Reflex Indemnified Labels

1. [www.farmassist.com](http://www.farmassist.com)
2. Products
3. Indemnified labels
4. Login (or create login and password)
5. Georgia, Dual Magnum or Reflex
6. Accept Waiver
7. Print label

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