



A vigorous stand of Sicklepod.

SICKLEPOD

ARSENIC WEED

INTRODUCTION

Sicklepod is also a weed pest in some canegrowing areas from Mossman to Sarina. The weed competes vigorously with sugarcane, reduces yield and causes harvesting problems. The declared noxious weed Sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*) is present in severe proportions in the Herbert Valley.

PROBLEM

- Estimated to infest 25,000 ha of the 60,000 ha under sugarcane in the Herbert alone.
- Mature plants can produce upwards of 10,000 seeds and can remain viable in the soil for 10 years.
- Older plants and more stressed plants from either wet or dry conditions become more difficult to control.
- Other chemicals have been tested with poor or minimal control.

DESCRIPTION

- Vigorous growing, very competitive woody shrub.
- Grows to between 1.5 - 2.5 m tall.
- Leaves divided into three opposite pairs.
- Flowers yellow, small with five petals.
- Seed pod is long, slender and sickle shaped.



CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Extensive trial work by Herbert BSES & DowElanco has shown Tordon 75-D to give good control of Sicklepod.
- Tordon 75-D is registered for sicklepod control in sugarcane in Queensland.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Best control by thoroughly wetting the plant.
- Ground application is the most effective and should use between 200-250 L water per ha.
- Application by aircraft must not use less than 50 L water per ha.
- Chemical rates vary for different size plants (shown below).
- Oil additives such as DowElanco Uptake to spray mix will improve control.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Older plants may not be completely killed but seeding will be reduced.
- Clean machinery after use in affected areas.
- Established seed populations may take years to control.



High clearance spray tractor. Use of droppers will ensure good coverage of leaves and stems of weeds in cane.

Crop	Weed controlled	Rate	Critical comments
Sugarcane grown from Mossman to Sarina	Sicklepod OR Arsenic Weed (<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>)	<p>Weeds less than 0.5 m in height: Apply 0.7 L Tordon 75-D plus 1.0 L 2,4-D (500g/L) with 1Lt per hectare of DowElanco Uptake spraying oil or 200mL AGRAL 600 in 200 L water per hectare.</p> <p>Weeds 0.5 - 1.0 m in height: Apply 1.0 L TORDON75-D plus 1.0 L 2,4-D (500 g/L) with 1Lt per hectare of DowElanco Uptake spraying oil or 200mL AGRAL 600 in 200 L water per hectare.</p> <p>Weeds greater than 1.0 m in height: Apply 1.5 L TORDON75-D plus 1.0 L 2,4-D (500 g/L) with 1Lt per hectare of DowElanco Uptake spraying oil or 200 mL AGRAL 600 in 200 L water per hectare.</p>	<p>Uptake spraying oil contains a non-ionic surfactant. Do not add extra surfactant.</p> <p>Good coverage of the plant is essential. Apply at an early growth stage before flowering.</p> <p>Adhere to the withholding period stated below.</p>

WITHHOLDING PERIOD: DO NOT HARVEST FOR 150 DAYS AFTER APPLICATION.