

## CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL IN RUBBER TREE NURSERY (Hevea spp.)<sup>1</sup>

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In a recent study concerning the chemical weed control in ground nursery of rubber tree it was tested the herbicides Ustilan at the dosages of 1.5, 3.0, 4.5, 6.0, 7.5 and 9.0 kg of a.i./ha, Diuron at the dosagem of 3.0 and 4.0 kg of a.i./ha and Metribuzin at the dosages of 0.5 and 1.0 kg of a.i./ha. The herbicides were applied in pre-emergence of the weeds, when the plants were two months old. It was employed a manual shoulder-mounted knapsack sprayer, with capacity for 20 I of watter, equipped with nozzle "Albuz" 80:02 and outlet adjusted for 650 I of watter per hectare. The evaluation of the experiment consisted on counting and weighting the weeds 30, 60, 90 and 120 days after the application of the herbicides. The area of the sample utilized for evaluation was igual to ten percent of the area of the plot. It was also evaluated the Phytotoxicity caused by the herbicides by means of the scale of the "Europen Weed Research Council" (E.W.R.C.). From the 21<sup>th</sup> day after the application it was observed Phytotoxicity on the treatments where the herbicide Ustilan had been applied at the dosages of 3.0, 4.5, 6.0, 7.5 e 9.0 kg of a.i./ha. The simptoms started by the general yellowing of the leaflets and ended with the death of the

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rubber plants. The herbicide Ustilan at dosage at 1.5 kg of a.i./ha did not cause any visual Phytotoxicity and permitted not so bad a weed control up to 120 days after the application. The other herbicides (Diuron 3.0 and 4.0 kg of a.i./ha and Metribuzin 0.5 and 1.0 kg a.i./ha) demonstrated a good efficiency on the weed control up to 90 days after application. But, Diuron at the dosage of 4.0 kg of a.i./ha demonstrated to be the best herbicide until 120 days after the application.