

# PROTECTION AGAINST RUGGLE BY BIOHERBICIDES, HERBICIDES AND MECHANICAL METHODS

Pölös Endre<sup>1\*</sup>, Palkovics András<sup>1</sup>, Szabó Csaba<sup>1</sup>, Tatjana Duric<sup>2</sup>, Hóman Zoltán<sup>1</sup>, Tóth Horgosi Péter<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Horticulture and Rural Development, János Neumann University, Hungary

<sup>2</sup> Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia, Újvidék

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## Abstract

A bio-herbicide kills ragweed like a classic herbicide. After an environmentally friendly treatment with bio-herbicide the original ecosystems would be restored more easily. The bio-herbicide conserves natural fauna. After mechanical control, the plant should sprout again and the treatment should be repeated at least three times. The economic aspects are the subject of further investigation.

## 1. Introduction

The common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.; Asteraceae) is a North American native that is invading Eurasia [1, 3]. Besides its economic impact on crop yield, it presents a major health problem because of its highly allergenic pollen [2, 4, 6]. Our herbicide experiment was primarily directed against *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*. It was invented using a biological method using a bioherbicide containing a biological agent (in this case a plant active ingredient). The effect of this bioherbicide is based on the fact that it contains allelochemicals which have growth, developmental and germinating properties [3, 5]. The organic spray was applied with a back sprayer.

## 2. Method

### Defense was done on the green area of Kecskemét

The weed survey was taken in the morning of 15.07.2018, the results of which are shown in Table 1. Before the treatment of ragweed, it was in a 15-leaf phenological stage, and the average height of the measured specimens reached 20 cm.

Table 1: Plant composition of the experimental area

Scientific name	Coverage (%)	Abundance - Dominance value %
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	30	3
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	20	2
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	10	1-2
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	10	1-2

\* Corresponding author. E-mail address: polos.endre@kvk.uni-neumann.hu

<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	5	1
<i>Melandrium album</i>	5	1
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	5	1

## 2.1. Effect of bioherbicide on ragweed and its comparison with conventional herbicide

The experimental area (600m<sup>2</sup>) contained a total of 1227 ragweed specimens. The treatment was performed twice in total. The first spraying took place on Tuesday, 11.08.2018 from 9:00am to 11:00am. The average temperature in the morning was 27°C. By day 0, ragweed leaves had become yellow and many individuals had already developed necrotic drying spots (Fig.1). The second bioherbicide treatment was performed one week later, on Tuesday, August 18, 2018 from 9:30am to 12:00am. It was very cloudy, gusty weather, with moderate air movement and drizzling rain (2 mm rainfall) with an average temperature of 22 °C. Ragweed blooms had already begun, with an average height of 22 cm and an average of 25 leaves. On the 4th day after the second treatment, 91.28% (1120 plants) of the *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* population were dried up by the organic spray (it means 62.1%) completely dried up (Figure 1), 29.18% were semi-dry. The remaining 8.72% ragweed specimens (107 strains) remained intact because they were not exposed to the bioherbicide.



Figure 1. Initial effect of bioherbicide: appearance of necrotic spots on the edges of ragweed leaf

The bio-herbicide showed partial selectivity, as not only ragweed, but also dicotyledonous (*Conyza canadensis*) appeared to be very sensitive to its effect. As early as 3 days after the first spraying, the infestations of the rabies suffered complete necrotic dehydration. This natural spray has a systemic effect as it is absorbed through the green parts of the plant into the entire plant. It has the advantage over conventional herbicides that it works in a short time (3-4 days).

In contrast to the bioherbicide, Glialka Top, which is also approved in the public domain, is non-selective, as it kills perennial monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous weeds (Fig. 2), especially natural grass lawns. This spray is absorbed into the whole plant through the green part of the plant, but it takes much longer (within 1-2 weeks) before it kills the weeds.





*Figure 2. Glialka Top herbicidal effect*

In the mowed areas, there is significant recurrence of ragweed and also invasive silkworm. A cut ragweed can grow 10 seedlings and at the same time increase the number of pollen flowers, thereby increasing pollen output (Figure 3. 4).



*Figure 3. Reproductive ragweed plants*





Figure 4. Ragweed and *Asclepias syriaca*

## 2.2. Control of ragweed in the Fülöpház district of the Kiskunság National Park

The purpose of control is to suppress invasive plant species from natural plant ecosystems.  
Invasive species in the Kiskunság National Park:

- *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*
- *Asclepias syriaca*
- *Conyza canadensis*
- *Solidago canadensis*
- *Ailanthus altissima*
- *Robinia pseudo-acacia*

We focused on the control of pollen-allergenic ragweed, which is extremely important for human health.

We used three methods:

1. Bio-herbicides environmentally friendly control
2. Classical herbicide control
3. Mechanical defense by mowing



### 3. Results

The results of the defense are illustrated in the following figures (Figure 5-8)



*Figure 5. Bio-herbicide treatment*



*Figure 6. Control area*





*Figure 7. Mowing*



*Figure 8. Restoration of the natural plant ecosystem*

## 4. Conclusions

1. Bio-herbicide kills ragweed like a classic herbicide
2. After the bio-herbicide-friendly treatment, the original plant ecosystem is restored
3. The bio-herbicide conserves natural fauna
4. Bio-herbicide is less hazardous to human health and eco-toxicological
5. After mechanical control, the plant should sprout again and the treatment should be repeated at least three times
6. Economic aspects are subject to further examination.

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