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WEED CONTROL IN “LL” MAIZE TOLERANT TO GLUFOSINATE-AMMONIUM

Abstract – The glufosinate-ammonium is an herbicide with contact action and, when used in tolerant LL maize, requires associations with other products to improve the weed control spectrum and increase the residual period in the area. The aim of this work was to evaluate the efficacy and selectivity of glufosinate-ammonium, applied alone and in combination with other herbicides, for weed control in maize crops. The treatments consisted of two strategies. In the first one, the following herbicides were applied in pre-emergence conditions: atrazine, [atrazine + simazine], [atrazine + oil], [atrazine + S-metolachlor], and S-metolachlor; with the subsequent application of glufosinate-ammonium in post-emergence condition of maize. The second application method corresponded to the use of glufosinate-ammonium, alone and combined with nicosulfuron + mesotrione and the other products used in the first strategy, in addition to two control areas, being one weed-infested and the other weed-free. Phytotoxicity on maize and weed control were assessed. Ear insertion height, number of rows per ear, number of grains per row, thousand grain weight and maize yield were determined upon harvesting. The herbicides were effective and did not cause yield loss to the crop. The herbicides applied in combination with glufosinate-ammonium were efficient in regard to weed control and selective to maize.

Keywords: *Helianthus annuus*, *Raphanus sativus*, *Urochloa plantaginea*, *Zea mays*.

CONTROLE DE PLANTAS DANINHAS EM MILHO TOLERANTE AO AMÔNIO GLUFOSINATO “LL”

Resumo - O amônio glufosinato é um herbicida com ação de contato e quando usado em milho tolerante “LL” necessita de associações com outros produtos para melhorar o espectro de controle e aumentar o período residual na área. Objetivou-se com o trabalho avaliar a eficácia e a seletividade de amônio glufosinato, aplicado de modo isolado e em associação com outros herbicidas para o controle de plantas daninhas em milho. Os tratamentos consistiram em duas estratégias, sendo a primeira usada em condições de pré-emergência os herbicidas: atrazina, [atrazina + simazina], [atrazina + óleo], [atrazina + s-metolacolor] e s-metolacolor, seguidos pela aplicação de amônio glufosinato na condição de pós-emergência do milho. A segunda modalidade de aplicação correspondeu ao uso de amônio glufosinato isolado e em associação com nicossulfurom + mesotriona e os demais produtos utilizados na alternativa anterior, além de duas testemunhas uma infestada e outra capinada. Foram avaliadas a fitotoxicidade sobre o milho e o controle das plantas daninhas. A altura de inserção de espiga, número de fileiras por espiga, número grãos por fileira, massa de mil grãos e produtividade do milho foram determinados na colheita. Os herbicidas foram eficazes e não ocasionaram perdas de rendimento à cultura. Os herbicidas aplicados em associação com o amônio glufosinato foram eficazes no controle das plantas daninhas e seletivos ao milho.

Palavras-chave: *Helianthus annuus*, *Raphanus sativus*, *Urochloa plantaginea*, *Zea mays*.

Maize stands out as one of the main crops cultivated in nearly the entire Brazilian territory, leading Brazil to hold the third position in the global production rating, after the United States and China. The grain production in the 2018/19 crop season in Brazil was estimated at approximately 100 million tonnes, occupying an area of about 17.5 million hectares, with an average productivity of 5,718 kg ha⁻¹ (Acompanhamento da Safra Brasileira [de] Grãos, 2020).

The inadequate management of weeds is one of the factors that may directly interfere with crop yield (Wandscheer et al., 2014). The lack of control may cause yield reductions of over 80% and even influence the quality of the harvested grain (Galon et al., 2018). Because of the high losses, it becomes necessary to perform the appropriate management of the weed community. Chemical control is the most applied method due to its efficacy, practicality and lower cost when compared to other control methods (Timossi & Freitas, 2011). There are 40 active ingredients registered for use in pre- and post-emergence of maize (Brasil, c2003). However, after the introduction of glyphosate-resistant hybrids (RR), there was a drastic reduction in the diversity regarding the use of molecules of different mechanisms of action. In maize crops, the weed management is mainly based on the use of glyphosate combined with atrazine (Silva et al., 2018).

The low cost of glyphosate, associated with its broad action spectrum, selectivity to RR crops and high control efficacy, contributed to the

continuous application of that herbicide in the production systems, thus favoring the selection pressure for resistant biotypes within the weed populations (Westwood et al., 2018). In Brazil, there are nine weed species that are resistant to this herbicide molecule (Heap, 2020). Weed biotypes resistant and tolerant to glyphosate are widely distributed throughout the main grain-producing regions in Brazil (Lucio et al., 2019). Such fact has been causing an increase in weed control costs and yield losses, resulting in high losses to farmers (Adegas et al., 2017). In view of this scenario, the search for new control alternatives is required.

Maize tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium, with LibertyLink[®] technology (LL), represents the possibility of using a new alternative to help with weed management. This herbicide is characterized by contact action, being applied in post-emergence conditions, with broad action spectrum (Rodrigues & Almeida, 2018). The glufosinate-ammonium inhibits the action of the glutamine synthetase (GS) enzyme, causing the accumulation of ammonia in the cells, which results in membrane disruption, inhibition of photosynthesis and, consequently, the death of plants (Latorre et al., 2013). As it is an herbicide of broad action spectrum, it is usually applied in pre-sowing desiccation or used in directed spraying. Tolerant crops are responsible for converting the glufosinate-ammonium into non-toxic metabolites. Currently in the Brazilian market, there are soybean, maize and cotton cultivars that are tolerant to that herbicide molecule (Comissão

Técnica Nacional de Biossegurança, 2020).

Management programs that involve crops tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium tend to use this active ingredient associated with other herbicide molecules (Adegas et al., 2017). This fact deserves attention, since the association of different products may cause antagonistic effects or physical and chemical incompatibilities, thus resulting in losses of efficacy and selectivity to the crop (Galon et al., 2018). Therefore, studies that assess the efficacy and selectivity of herbicide combinations are of great importance for the appropriate positioning of the technology in the market.

In this sense, the objective of this work was to assess the efficacy of the glufosinate-ammonium, alone and in combination with herbicides registered, in the maize crop, for control of radish (*Raphanus* sp.), alexandergrass (*Urochloa plantaginea*) and sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), in addition to assessing the selectivity to the 2A521 PW hybrid.

Material and Methods

The experiment was conducted on the experimental area of the Federal University of Fronteira Sul (UFFS), Erechim Campus, from October 2018 to February 2019. Sowing was carried out on residues (straw) in no-tillage system. The area was previously cultivated with a winter cover crop consisting of black oat + radish. The desiccation of those plants was done with the application of glyphosate (1440g ha⁻¹),

30 days before maize sowing, with dry mass production of 5.7 t ha⁻¹. The soil was classified as typical aluminum-ferric Red Latosol (Santos et al., 2013). The experiment was installed in randomized block design, with four replications. The treatments are described in Table 1.

Fertility was corrected according to the soil chemical analysis, taking into account the recommendations for maize crop intended for grain production (Manual..., 2016). Fertilizer was applied in the sowing furrow, in the amount of 433 kg ha⁻¹ of the 05-30-15 (N-P-K) formulation, in addition to urea application in the amount of 310 kg ha⁻¹, when the maize plant had, on average, six fully expanded leaves (V6).

Seeds of the single cross maize hybrid (Forseed 2A521 PW) were sown, with 0.50 m spacing between rows and density of 3.65 seeds per linear meter, providing a population of approximately 73,000 plants ha⁻¹. The plots were composed of six rows with 5 m length x 3 m width, totaling an area of 15 m². The useful plot area was 6 m² (2 x 3 m). The weeds occurring in the experimental area were radish (*Raphanus* sp.), alexandergrass (*Urochloa plantaginea*) and sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), in average densities of 33, 193 and 12 plants m⁻², respectively, emerged from the soil seed bank.

Herbicides were applied with the use of CO₂ pressurized backpack sprayer, equipped with four flat-fan spray nozzles (DG110.02), keeping constant pressure of 210 kPa and travel speed of 3.6 km h⁻¹, which provided flow rate of 150 L ha⁻¹. On the same day of maize sowing and after that,

Table 1. Treatments used in the experiment, the respective dose and period of application for weed control in the Forseed 2A521PW maize hybrid. UFFS, Erechim, RS.

Treatments	Doses (g ha ⁻¹)	Adjuvant	Doses %v/v	Type of application
01-Weed-infested control area
02-Weed-free control area
03-Atrazine + glufosinate-ammonium	2500+200	Hoefix	0.2	Pre/Post
04-[Atrazine + simazine] + glufosinate-ammonium	1500+1500+200	Hoefix	0.2	Pre/Post
05-[Atrazine + oil] + glufosinate-ammonium	2400+200	Hoefix	0.2	Pre/Post
06-S-metolachlor + glufosinate-ammonium	1680+200	Hoefix	0.2	Pre/Post
07-[Atrazine + S-metolachlor] + glufosinate-ammonium	1665+1215+200	Hoefix	0.2	Pre/Post
08-Glufosinate-ammonium	200	Hoefix	0.2	Post
09-Glufosinate-ammonium + atrazine	200+2500	Hoefix	0.2	Post
10-Glufosinate-ammonium + [atrazine + oil]	200+2400	Hoefix	0.2	Post
11-Glufosinate-ammonium + S-metolachlor	200+1680	Hoefix	0.2	Post
12-Glufosinate-ammonium + [atrazine + simazine]	200+1500+1500	Hoefix	0.2	Post
13-Glufosinate-ammonium + [atrazine + S-metolachlor]	200+1665+1215	Hoefix	0.2	Post
14-Glufosinate-ammonium + [nicosulfuron + mesotrione]	200+23.4+109.4	Hoefix	0.2	Post

the herbicides were applied in pre-emergence conditions. When the maize plant had four fully expanded leaves (V4), the radish and sunflower had two to four leaves, and the marmeladegrass had four leaves to one tiller, the herbicides were applied in post-emergence conditions.

The assessment of phytotoxicity on the maize plants and the weed control were performed 7, 14 and 21 days after treatment application (DAT), using a rating scale from zero (0) to a hundred (100), where 0% corresponds to no plant injury or control treatment, and 100% corresponds to plant death or total control of weeds (Velini et al., 1995).

The variables assessed at pre-harvest of maize were: ear insertion height (EIH), with

measurement being made in ten plants, using a ruler, from the base up to the insertion point of the first ear; number of rows per ear (NRE) and number of grains per row (NGR), which were determined through random sampling in ten ears from each plot.

Maize was manually harvested when the grains reached 20% moisture. Threshing of ears was done right after harvesting in a stationary plot thresher. The thousand grain weight (g) was determined by counting eight samples of 100 grains from each plot, with the crop yield being estimated subsequently, and the moisture content standardized at 13%.

The data were submitted to normality and additivity tests. After error normality was

confirmed, the analysis of variance was conducted through F-test and, when significant, Scott-Knott test ($p \leq 0.05$) was applied.

Results and Discussions

All analyzed variables presented significant effects in regard to the treatments. Low levels of phytotoxicity were observed in the maize crop from 7 to 14 DAT (Table 2). At 7 DAT, the treatment with glufosinate-ammonium caused no phytotoxicity symptoms on the crop when applied alone. At 14 DAT, all herbicides caused

phytotoxicity, though the symptoms were always inferior to 5%. At 21 DAT, the crop did not present any level of phytotoxicity caused by the herbicides. The selectivity of the glufosinate-ammonium, applied alone or in combination with other herbicides, has been assessed in other works (Armél et al., 2008; Burke et al., 2008; Silva et al., 2017). In general, the results indicate that the glufosinate-ammonium applied alone in LL maize produces no phytotoxicity symptoms. However, when used in association with other herbicides, there may be selectivity losses. Burke et al. (2008)

Table 2. Phytotoxicity (%) on Forseed 2A521PW maize hybrid, as a function of applications of herbicides combined with glufosinate-ammonium. UFFS, Erechim, RS, 2018/19.

Treatments	Type of application	Phytotoxicity on maize (%)		
		07 DAT ¹	14 DAT	21 DAT
01-Weed-infested control area	---	0.00 b ²	0.00 c	0.00 ^{ns}
02-Weed-free control area	---	0.00 b	0.00 c	0.00
03-Atrazine+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	4.00 a	3.00 b	0.00
04-[Atrazine+simazine]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	4.00 a	3.50 b	0.00
05-[Atrazine+oil]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	3.50 a	3.50 b	0.00
06-S-metolachlor+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	4.00 a	3.00 b	0.00
07-[Atrazine+S-metolachlor]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	3.50 a	4.00 a	0.00
08-Glufosinate-ammonium	Post	0.00 b	3.00 b	0.00
09-Glufosinate-ammonium +atrazine	Post	4.50 a	5.00 a	0.00
10-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+oil]	Post	3.00 a	5.00 a	0.00
11-Glufosinate-ammonium +S-metolachlor	Post	3.00 a	4.50 a	0.00
12-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+simazine]	Post	3.50 a	4.50 a	0.00
13-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+S-metolachlor]	Post	5.00 a	4.00 a	0.00
14-Glufosinate-ammonium +[nicosulfuron+mesotrione]	Post	3.00 a	5.00 a	0.00
CV (%)		37.2	40.43	0.00

¹ Days after treatment application. ² Means followed by the same letters in the column do not differ among one another as per Scott-Knott test at $p \leq 0.05$.

observed that the application of glufosinate-ammonium (300 g ha⁻¹) + mesotrione (70 g ha⁻¹) in maize plant, 40 days after its emergence, resulted in phytotoxicity levels of up to 23%, but the symptoms disappeared throughout the evaluation period and there were no yield losses. The herbicide selectivity to the crop may be influenced by the cultivar, plant development stage, doses applied, conditions of climate and soil (physical and chemical).

With regard to the control of

alexandergrass, all herbicide treatments promoted control levels close to or above 90%, at 7 and 14 DAT (Table 3). At 21 DAT, the best chemical control strategies consisted in the application, in post-emergence condition, of the glufosinate-ammonium combined with atrazine and also with the formulated mixtures of [atrazine+simazine] and [atrazine+S-metolachlor]. The greater efficacy of these treatments may be related to the post-emergence control provided by the glufosinate-ammonium associated with the residual effect

Table 3. Control (%) of alexandergrass - *Urochloa plantaginea*, infesting the maize hybrid (Forseed 2A521PW) crop, as a function of applications of herbicides combined with glufosinate-ammonium. UFFS, Erechim, RS, 2018/19.

Treatments	Type of application	Control of alexandergrass (%)		
		7 DAT ¹	14 DAT	21 DAT
01-Weed-infested control area	---	0 d ²	0c	0 e
02-Weed-free control area	---	100 a	100 a	100 a
03-Atrazine+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	93 c	96 b	87 d
04-[Atrazine+simazine]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	94 c	94 b	87 d
05-[Atrazine+oil]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	96 b	96 b	88 d
06-S-metolachlor+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	95 c	95 b	93 c
07-[Atrazine+S-metolachlor]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	96 b	96 b	90 d
08-Glufosinate-ammonium	Post	92 c	92 b	90 d
09-Glufosinate-ammonium +atrazine	Post	95 c	95 b	95 b
10-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+oil]	Post	94 c	94 b	94 c
11-Glufosinate-ammonium +S-metolachlor	Post	89 c	89 b	91 c
12-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+simazine]	Post	98 b	98 b	96 b
13-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+S-metolachlor]	Post	98 b	98 b	97 b
14-Glufosinate-ammonium +[nicosulfuron+mesotrione]	Post	95 c	95 b	94 c
CV (%)		4.34	7.78	3.85

¹ Days after treatment application. ² Means followed by the same letters in the column do not differ among one another as per Scott-Knott test at p≤0.05.

of the other molecules used in the combination. Galon et al. (2010) observed that the application of S-metolachlor in the pre-emergence of maize provided weed control until 14 DAT. The use of this herbicide in the post-emergence does not contribute to the control of the established plant, but it is efficient in the reduction of new emergence flows. It is important to highlight that all herbicide treatments presented control levels over 80%, which enables them to be regarded as good control alternatives (Oliveira et al., 2009).

In respect to the control of radish, at 7 DAT all herbicides provided efficacy above 90% (Table 4). At 14 and 21 DAT, the use of glufosinate-ammonium in pre-emergence, combined or not

with S-metolachlor, provided the lowest control levels. The low efficacy of these treatments, when compared with the others, may be related to the lack of residual effect of the glufosinate-ammonium and to the short residual effect of the S-metolachlor, with new weed emergence flows in the area. The other treatments presented control efficiency equivalent or superior to 90% at 21 DAT.

In the South Region of Brazil, the producers' complaints have increased in regard to radish control failures identified in wheat crops, with the use of ALS-inhibiting metsulfuron-methyl (Costa & Rizzardi, 2013). In addition to that, this species is adapting and infesting summer crops

Table 4. Control (%) of radish - *Raphanus sativus L.*, infesting the maize hybrid (Forseed 2A521PW) crop, as a function of applications of herbicides combined with glufosinate-ammonium. UFFS, Erechim, RS, 2018/19.

Treatments	Type of application	Control of radish (%)		
		7 DAT ¹	14 DAT	21 DAT
01-Weed-infested control area	---	0 c	0 c	0 d
02-Weed-free control area	---	100 a	100 a	100 a
03-Atrazine+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	99 a	99 a	96 a
04-[Atrazine+simazine]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	99 a	97 a	91 b
05-[Atrazine+oil]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	99 a	97 a	90 b
06-S-metolachlor+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	92 b	91 b	82 c
07-[Atrazine+S-metolachlor]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	96 a	93 b	97 a
08-Glufosinate-ammonium	Post	94 b	82 b	78 c
09-Glufosinate-ammonium +atrazine	Post	100 a	100 a	100 a
10-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+oil]	Post	99 a	100 a	99 a
11-Glufosinate-ammonium +S-metolachlor	Post	91 b	96 b	95 b
12-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+simazine]	Post	100 a	100 a	100 a
13-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+S-metolachlor]	Post	100 a	100 a	100 a
14-Glufosinate-ammonium +[nicosulfuron+mesotrione]	Post	99 a	95 a	99 a
CV (%)		3.65	6.57	7.82

¹ Days after treatment application. ² Means followed by the same letters in the column do not differ among one another as per Scott-Knott test at $p \leq 0.05$.

like soybean, maize, beans, among others, in that same region. Therefore, due to the high efficacy of the treatments, LL maize grown in succession to wheat may represent an interesting alternative to reduce this weed's seed bank in the areas where this cereal grain is cultivated.

As to the sunflower, all treatments presented control levels above 90%, regardless of the assessment periods (Table 5). The control of weed and volunteer plants (rogue), which grow from harvest losses, is of great importance in order to allow the crop of economic interest to express all its yield potential. Weeds and rogues, besides competing for the resources in the environment, may be hosts for pests and diseases, thus favoring the loss of productivity

and profitability of the crop of interest (Silva et al., 2018). Due to these characteristics, it is important to manage those plants properly.

The glufosinate-ammonium stands out as an interesting alternative for weed management. In Brazil, there is no record of species that have biotypes resistant to that molecule (Heap, 2020). However, since it is an herbicide with contact action, its efficacy is directly related to the development stage of the target plant (Chaudhari et al., 2017). This fact, associated with the lack of residual effect in the soil, causes the management programs that make use of this technology to be dependent on the application in the appropriate weed development stage and the use of residual herbicides (Jhala et al., 2017). Crops tolerant

Table 5. Control (%) of sunflower - *Helianthus annuus*, infesting the maize hybrid (Forseed 2A521PW) crop, as a function of applications of herbicides combined with glufosinate-ammonium. UFFS, Erechim, RS, 2018/19.

Treatments	Type of application	Control of sunflower (%)		
		7 DAT ¹	14 DAT	21 DAT
01-Weed-infested control area	---	0 c ²	0 c	0 b
02-Weed-free control area	---	100 a	100 a	100 a
03-Atrazine+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	100 a	100 a	99 a
04-[Atrazine+simazine]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	96 b	100 a	94 b
05-[Atrazine+oil]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	99 a	100 a	95 b
06-S-metolachlor+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	96 b	99 b	97 b
07-[Atrazine+S-metolachlor]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	99 a	100 a	97 b
08-Glufosinate-ammonium	Post	94 b	100 a	98 a
09-Glufosinate-ammonium +atrazine	Post	99 a	100 a	100 a
10-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+oil]	Post	100 a	100 a	100 a
11-Glufosinate-ammonium +S-metolachlor	Post	100 a	100 a	98 a
12-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+simazine]	Post	99 a	100 a	100 a
13-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+S-metolachlor]	Post	100 a	100 a	100 a
14-Glufosinate-ammonium +[nicosulfuron+mesotrione]	Post	100 a	100 a	97 b
CV (%)		2.13	0.33	2.67

¹ Days after treatment application. ² Means followed by the same letters in the column do not differ among one another as per Scott-Knott test at $p \leq 0.05$.

to glufosinate-ammonium have been used as an important alternative to help with the management of biotypes resistant to glyphosate (Ganie & Jhala, 2017) and, consequently, allow the possibility of alternating different mechanisms of action in crops.

The herbicide treatments did not affect yield components or grain production of the crop (Table 6). This fact can be attributed to the low

phytotoxicity levels and high efficacy in weed control. When comparing the average value of the herbicide treatments with the weed-infested control, there is an increment of 57% in grain yield. Silva et al. (2017), when assessing the selectivity of glyphosate and glufosinate-ammonium, applied alone or in association with atrazine in maize (RR/LL), observed

Table 6. Ear insertion height (EIH - m), number of rows per ear (NRE), number of grains per row (NGR), thousand grain weight (TGW - g) and grain yield (GY – kg ha⁻¹) for the Forseed 2A521PW maize hybrid, as a function of applications of herbicides associated with glufosinate-ammonium. UFFS, Erechim, RS, 2018/19.

Treatments	Type of application	Yield components of maize				
		EIH	NRE	NGR	TGW	GY
01-Weed-infested control area	---	1.04 ^{ns}	13.40 b	25 ^{ns}	360.04 ^{ns}	3262.40 b
02-Weed-free control area	---	0.97	14.70 a	31	428.41	5220.19 a
03-Atrazine+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	1.03	14.30 a	26	436.66	5203.03 a
04-[Atrazine+simazine]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	0.96	14.80 a	29	400.03	4630.40 a
05-[Atrazine+oil]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	1.00	13.70 b	29	424.51	4790.84 a
06-S-metolachlor+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	1.05	14.60 a	29	407.16	4840.99 a
07-[Atrazine+S-metolachlor]+glufosinate-ammonium	Pre/Post	1.01	14.70 a	28	379.56	4932.18 a
08-Glufosinate-ammonium	Post	0.99	14.90 a	27	392.11	4399.69 a
09-Glufosinate-ammonium +atrazine	Post	1.00	14.70 a	30	385.03	5633.61 a
10-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+oil]	Post	1.01	14.70 a	28	393.03	4904.12 a
11-Glufosinate-ammonium +S-metolachlor	Post	1.01	14.70 a	28	402.51	4674.88 a
12-Glufosinate-ammonium +[atrazine+simazine]	Post	1.05	14.40 a	29	383.63	5359.64 a
13-Glufosinate-ammonium+[atrazine+S-metolachlor]	Post	1.03	14.20 a	28	399.08	5170.82 a
14-Glufosinate-ammonium+[nicosulfuron+mesotrione]	Post	0.94	14.40 a	29	403.14	4654.83 a
CV (%)		6.00	4.36	7.02	6.75	12.80

^{ns} Not significant at $p \leq 0.05$. ¹ Means followed by the same letters in the column do not differ among one another as per Scott-Knott test at $p \leq 0.05$.

that the use of these molecules did not result in losses regarding yield components or crop productivity. The results corroborate those found by Gemelli et al. (2013) who verified no yield losses with application of atrazine combined with glufosinate-ammonium. Lack of visual damages or negative impacts on productivity are relevant traits for the acceptance and diffusion of the technology among rural producers.

The use of glufosinate-ammonium associated with other herbicide molecules was selective and efficient for weed control in LL maize crop. Rotation of active ingredients and combination of herbicides with different mechanisms of action are important practices for the management of weed resistance to herbicides. In this scenario, the LL maize enables the use of a new active ingredient in the post-emergence of the crop, which promotes the increase of alternatives for weed control.

Conclusion

The herbicides applied in association with glufosinate-ammonium were efficient in the control of alexandergrass, radish and sunflower, and were selective to the Forseed 2A521 PW maize hybrid (RR/LL). The maize grain yield components were not negatively impacted by the application of glufosinate-ammonium associated with the other herbicides. The weed control presents increment of 57% in maize grain yield.

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