Stinger 3A for Composite and Legume Weed Control in Cranberries

B. A. Majek
Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Bridgeton, NJ

Stinger 3A is a new herbicide available to control certain broadleaf weeds in cranberries. The label is a 24(c) Special Local Need label, and is available in most cranberry producing states. Obtain a copy of the label from your local county agricultural agent or farm supply dealer. Attached to the label is a Waiver of liability. Fill out, sign, and mail the Waiver of Liability Certificate according to the directions. Read and follow all Specific Use Restrictions on the label.

Stinger 3A controls Composite and Legume weeds in cranberries. Composite weeds include annuals such as ragweed, fireweed (American burn weed), and beggars ticks (pitchforks), and perennials such as asters species, goldenrod species, and Canada thistle. Legume weeds include annuals such as vetch species, and perennials such as wild bean and clover species. Stinger 3A should be applied as a single or split application by a ground driven boom sprayer calibrated to deliver between 20 and 50 gallons per acre. Application should be made as target weeds emerge, or soon afterward, before perennials exceed two to four inches tall, and before annuals exceed two inches tall or develop more than four to six true leaves. The cotyledons, or halves of the seed, do not count. Stinger will have little or no affect on most weeds that are not in the Composite or Legume plant families.

Apply Stinger 3A at the rate of 2.66 to 8.0 fluid ounces of product per acre (0.0625 to 0.188 lb ai/acre) when a single application is planned. When more than one application is sprayed, do not exceed 1 pint of Stinger per acre (0.375 lb ai /acre) per year. Do not apply within 50 days of harvest.

Stinger 3A is a growth regulator type herbicide. Typical injury symptoms in sensitive plants includes twisting, curling, stretching, feathering, cupping and other abnormal leaf growth, swelling of the growing point and no new growth, and finally plant death. Seedlings die more quickly than larger established weeds. Cranberries affected by Stinger 3A will look more silver in color from a distance. The leaves of the new growth will be oriented vertically rather than horizontally around the stem so the underside of the leaves, which is more silver in color, is visible rather than the top of the leaves.

Cranberries are more sensitive to Stinger before bloom. Use ONLY the lower rate of 2.66 fluid ounces per acre of Stinger 3A when applications are made in the early spring before growth begins, during the period of rapid shoot growth in late May and June, and before bloom. Use the higher rate of 5.33 fluid ounces per acre of Stinger 3A for most weed problems when applications are made in the summer after bloom. Apply the highest labeled rate of 8.0 fluid ounces per acre to control heavy aster, goldenrod, or Canada thistle infestations. Applications in late July and August must be made with attention to the projected harvest date to maintain the 50 day pre-harvest interval (PHI).

Stinger is a residual herbicide. The Stinger rate per acre cannot be controlled when applying spot treatments “sprayed to wet”. This type of application may result in moderate or severe crop injury, therefore spot treatments “sprayed to wet” are NOT recommended.