



# Discovery & Development of Natural Products for Controlling Weeds

Pam Marrone, CEO & Founder

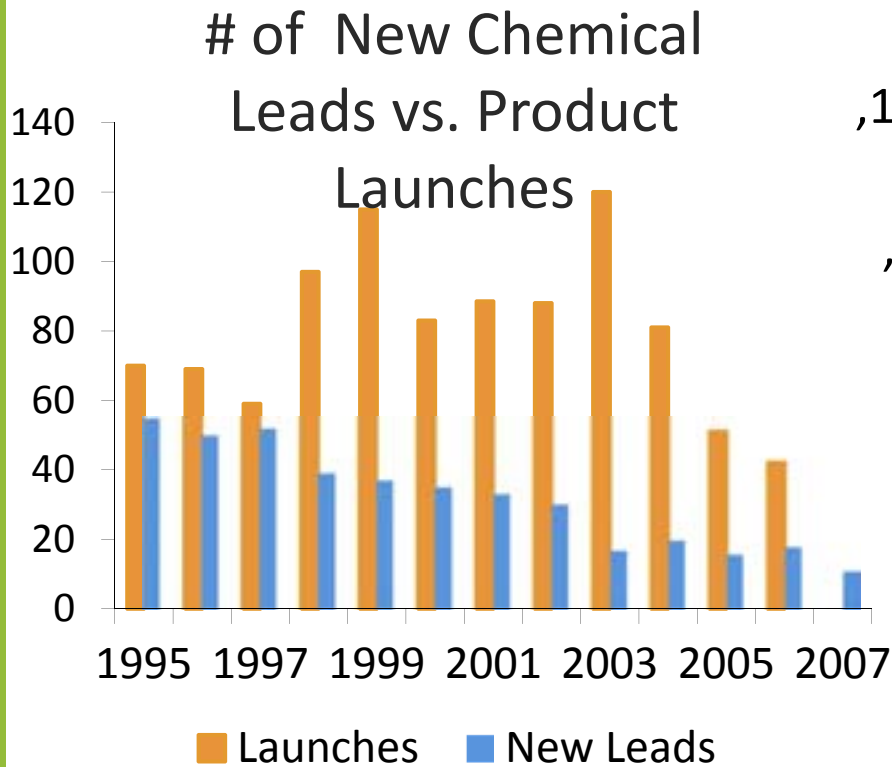


Natural Products

For Pest Management

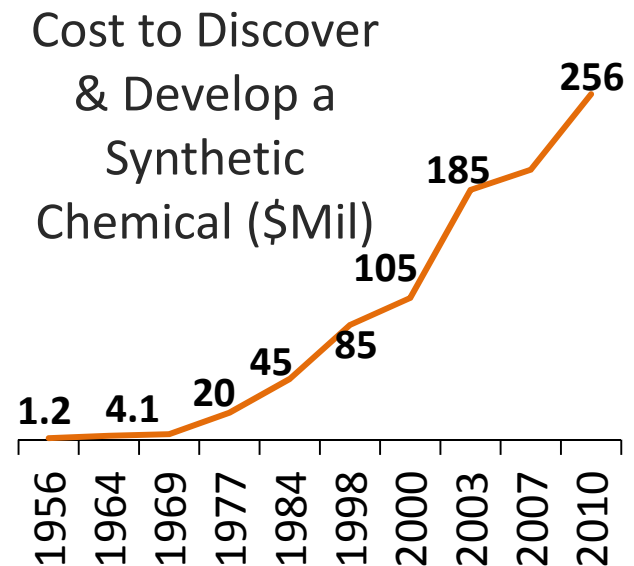
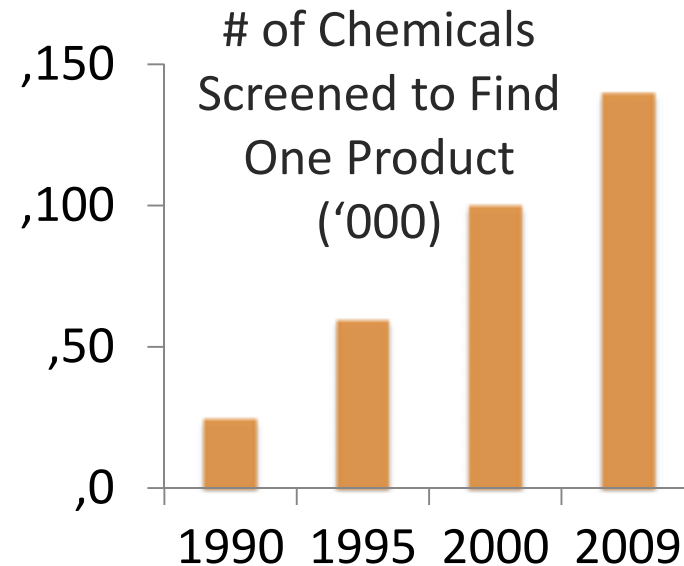


# Fewer New Chemicals – Higher Cost



Source: Ag Chem New Compound Review (Vol 25) 2007

**Increasing resistance to glyphosate; few new herbicidal modes of action since RR crops**

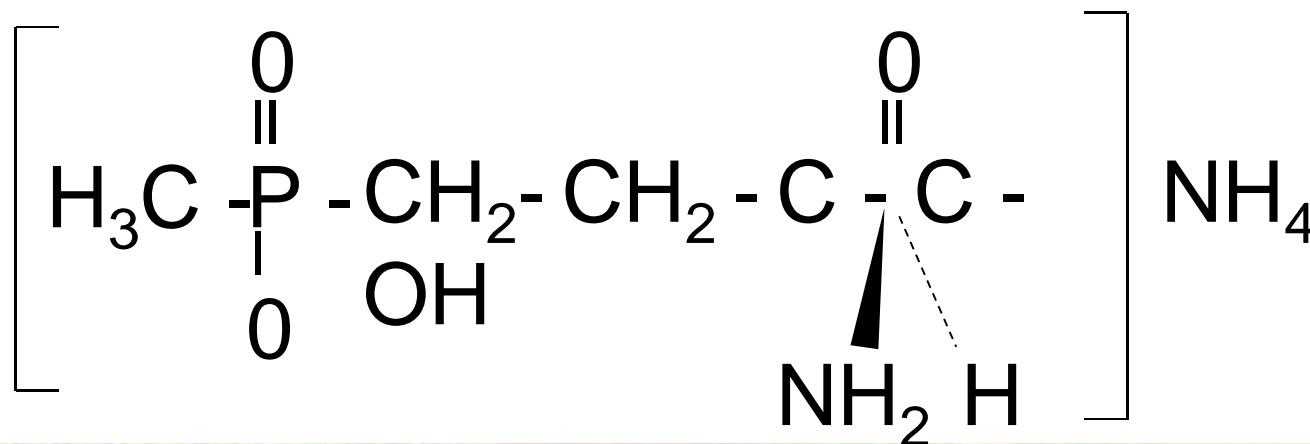


(Source: CropLife)

# Herbicides from Microorganisms

## Basta - Glufosinate ammonium

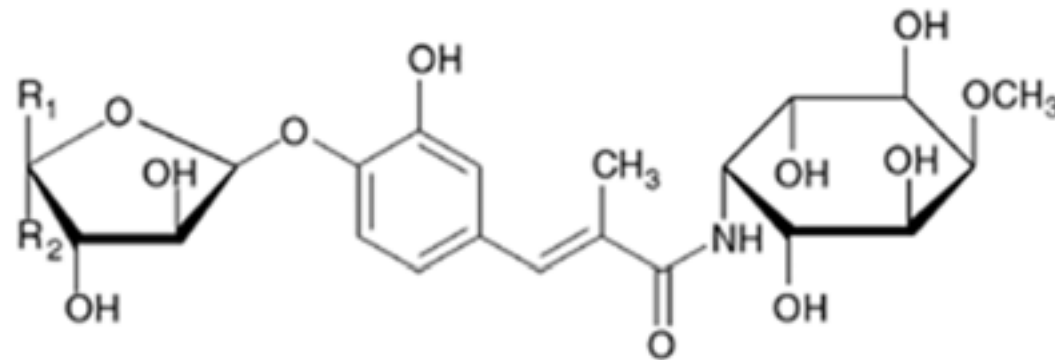
- Phosphinothricin (a breakdown product of bialaphos) discovered from *Streptomyces viridochromogenes* and *S. hygrosopicus*
- Inhibits the activity of the glutamine synthetase enzyme, which causes ammonia build-up in the cell.



# Herbicides from Microorganisms

## Methoxyhygromycin

- Produced by *Streptomyces* sp. 8E-12 (Korea)
- Bleaches and kills plants
- Has some selectivity to cucumber, rice, wheat and soybean



R<sub>1</sub>: COCH<sub>3</sub> R<sub>2</sub>: H      Methoxyhygromycin

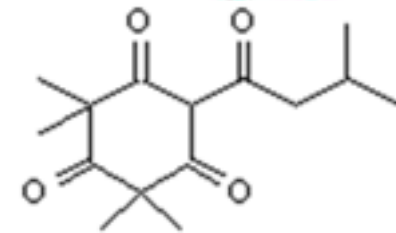
R<sub>1</sub>: H R<sub>2</sub>: COCH<sub>3</sub>      Epi-methoxyhygromycin



# Herbicides from Plants

## Leptospermone

- From the *bottlebrush tree* *Callistemon citrinus*
- Developed into Callisto<sup>®</sup> herbicide (mesotrione) by Syngenta
- Mesotrione inhibits an essential plant enzyme, HPPD (p-hydroxyphenyl pyruvate dioxygenase) that is found primarily in the cytoplasm of the chloroplasts



## What We Do

*We discover, develop, and market **effective** and environmentally responsible natural products (biopesticides) that fill unmet needs for weed, pest & plant disease management.*

- **Products that improve yields and quality in conventional ag compared to chemical-only systems**
- **Products that lower the cost and increase yields in organic farming**
- **Products for water treatment and water bodies**



# Company Overview



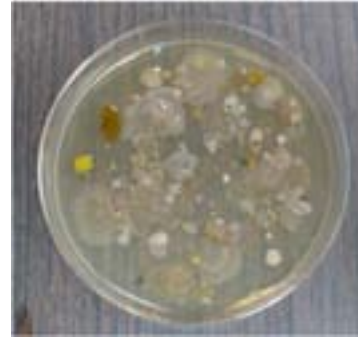
- Founded April 2006 by industry expert, serial entrepreneur Pam Marrone in Davis, California
- 54 employees; 12 PhD, 7 MS, 4 MBA, 30 BS, 1 AS
- Selling GreenMatch® Bioherbicide and Regalia® Biofungicide
- Products in advanced development:
  - Zequanox™ Invasive mussel product - launch early 2011
  - Two bioinsecticides and two bioherbicides waiting EPA approval – launch 2011/12
- 7 U.S., 10 international patents filed
- \$23.5 million of invested equity capital



# Microorganisms Isolated From Unique Habitats and Geographies



Samples from Areas of high biodiversity are cultured on specific media



Individual fungal, bacterial, and actinomycete colonies picked from primary plate



Purity is confirmed on separate plates



Fermentation broths are used for bioassays

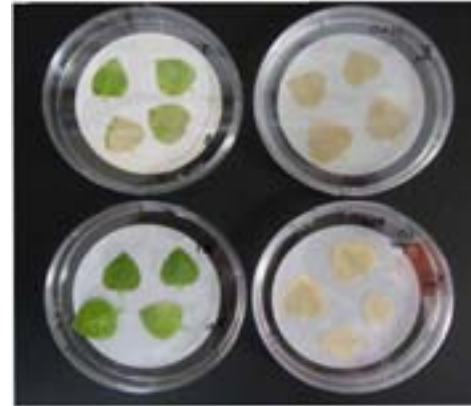


# Biological Efficacy Testing

## Nematode Screening



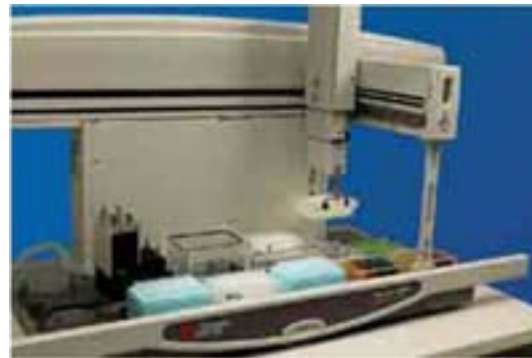
## Herbicide Screening



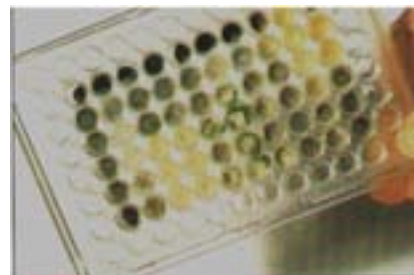
In vivo screen

**Weed** screen includes high throughput enzyme assays for systemic mode of action

**Plant Disease & Insect testing** - miniaturized, automated assays vs. pest or plant pathogen



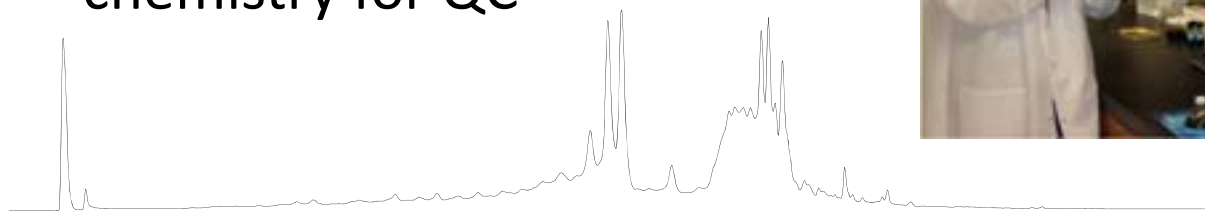
**Seed Treatment & Nutrient Efficiency** screens



**Algaecide** screening

# Natural Product & Analytical Chemistry

- Characterize/identify pesticidal compounds produced by the microbes or plants
- Eliminate strains with harmful compounds
- Develop analytical assays based on bioactive chemistry for QC



# Fermentation and Formulation



- Optimize processes
- Scale up - pilot & manufacturing
- Field trials
- Registration

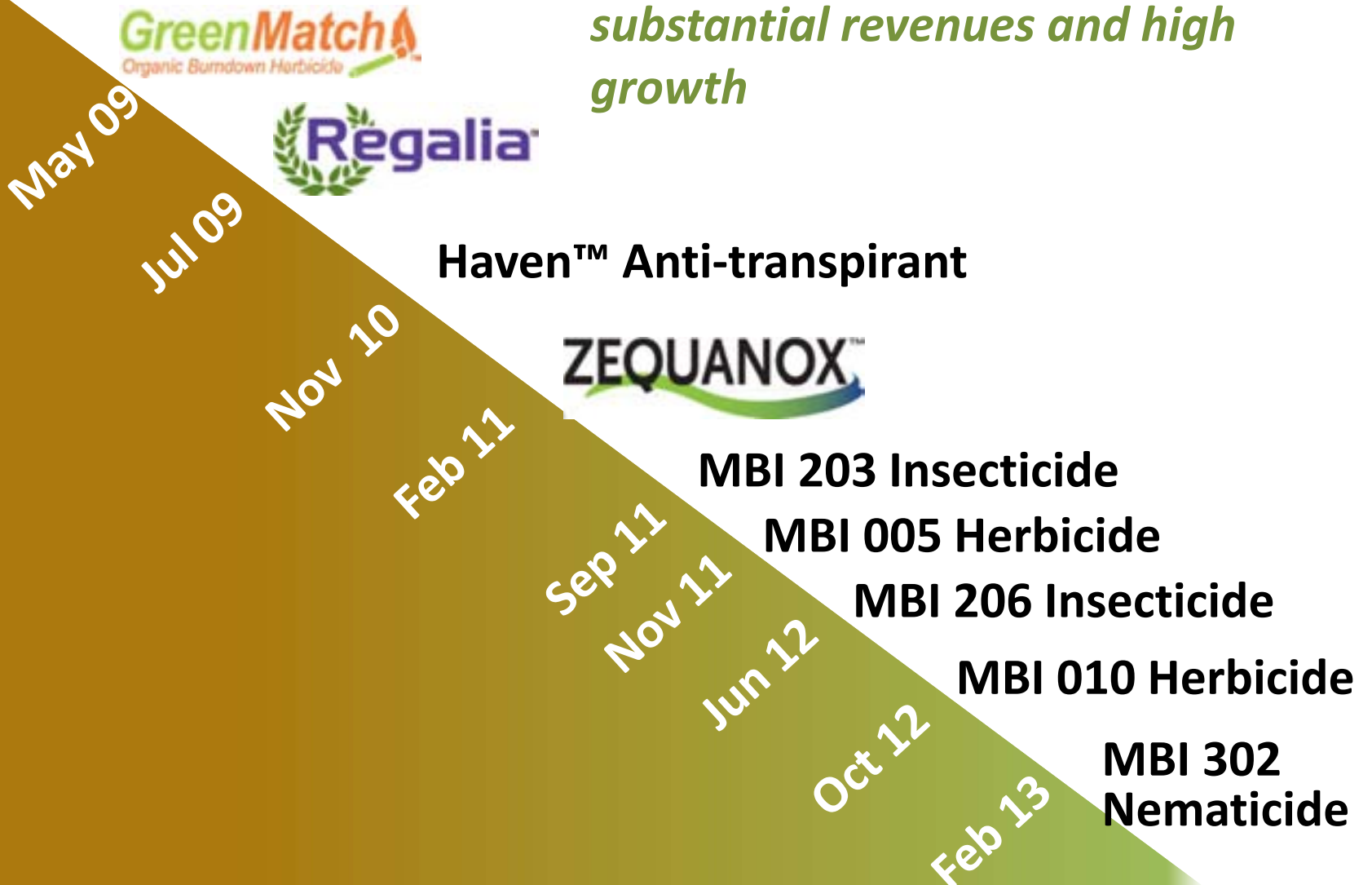
Develop user-friendly formulations (wetable powder, WDG, liquid suspension, RTUs) & packaging

# Product Pipeline



*Strategy: develop multiple products in parallel to create substantial revenues and high growth*

Market  
Entry  
Date





<b>Active Ingredient: d-limonene.....</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Inert Ingredients:.....</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Total: .....</b>	<b>100%</b>

- An effective burndown for organic only – price of raw materials too high for conventional
- Good first entry into the market to understand what organic growers want for weed control compared to hand weeding, tractor cultivation, flaming and landscape fabric, etc.
- Will be replaced by other MBI products

## Before and After - Examples



Before Treated



After Treated with GreenMatch

## Bindweed – Camarillo, CA 14 Days After Treated



**Before Treated**



**After Treated with GreenMatch**

**14 DAT, 14% dil. 60 GPA**

# Bindweed – Yakima, WA

## 7 and 14 Days After Treated



After Treated with GreenMatch  
7 DAT, 14% dil. 60 GPA



After Treated with GreenMatch  
14 DAT, 14% dil. 60 GPA



# Irrigation Channel – Gonzales, CA

## 14 Days After Treated



**Before Treated**



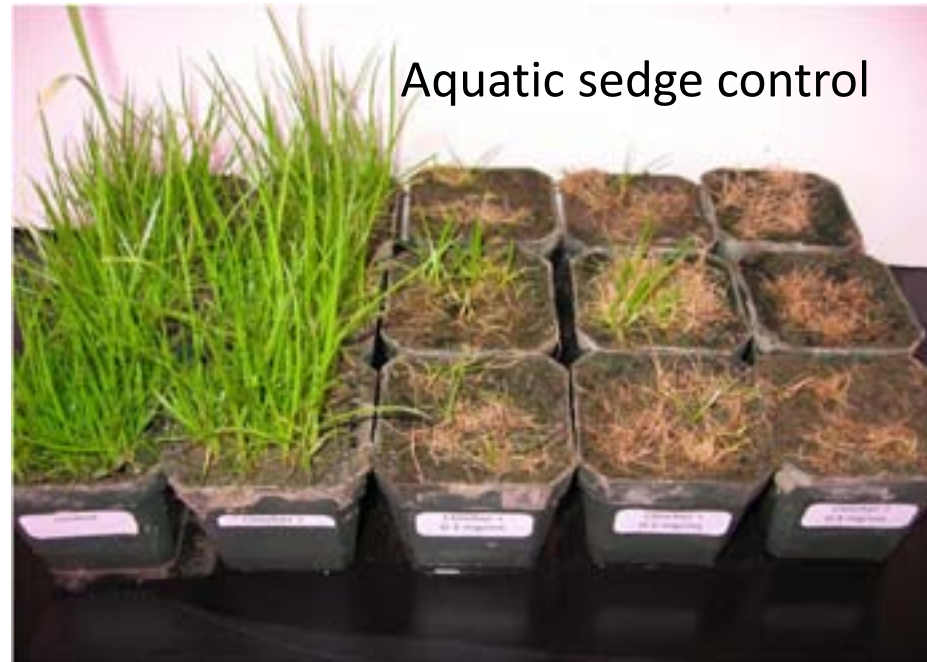
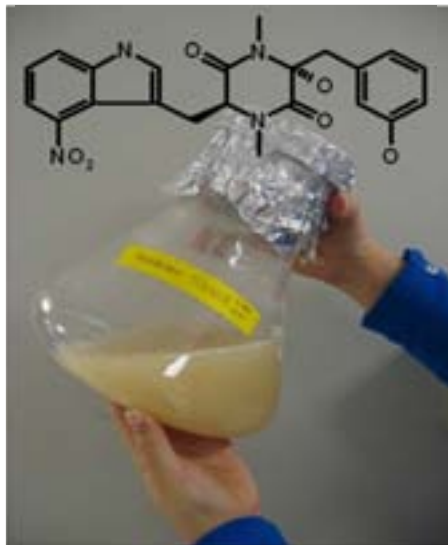
**After Treated with GreenMatch**

**55F, 17% dil @ 65 GPA**

## MBI 005 – Selective Bioherbicide

*Identified as active vs. sedges in rice by Dupont*

- Broad spectrum control of broadleaf weeds and sedges
- **Uses:** Rice, corn, wheat, sugarcane, sorghum, turf
- **Active ingredient:** Thaxtomin from *Streptomyces spp.*
- **Regulatory status:** Pending at the EPA



Lambsquarter – 7DAT



Dandelion – 7DAT



Velvetleaf – 14DAT



Sunflower – 7DAT

# MBI 005 Efficacy on Rice Weeds - Sedge and Sprangletop (greenhouse)

Rate of MBI-005 (arbitrary units)	<i>Cyperus difformis</i> (control %)			<i>Leptochloa sp</i> (% control)		
	5 days	12 days	21 days	5 days	12 days	21 days
0	0a	0a	0a	0	0a	0a
1	5a	15a	53b	0	0a	0a
2	12a	75b	90c	0	2a	3a
4	16a	77b	88c	0	10b	12a
8	25a	73b	83c	0	10b	17a

# MBI 005 Tank Mix with Clincher® CA Greenhouse Test - Rice



Effect on the most common rice weeds in the Northern Central Valley in California was evaluated 8 days after treatment

MBI-005 @ increasing dose, with Clincher®)	Redstem % control	Waterplantain % control	Sedge % control	Sprangletop % control
<b>UTC</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Clincher® CA is a product of Dow AgroSciences

# MBI 005 Good Dandelion Control



10DAT

Dandelion  
Test  
Pre-treatment (17 days  
old)



UTC

MBI-005  
1.0  
mg/mL

MBI-005  
0.5  
mg/mL

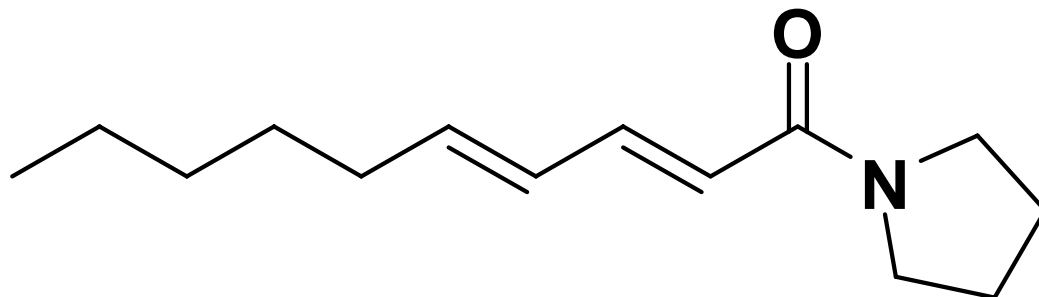
Roundup  
1 fl oz/gal



24DAT

## Sarmentine as a Herbicide

- Methanol extract of dry long pepper (*Piper longum* L.) fruits showed herbicidal activity in our screen
- Used in Chinese medicine and as an anti-oxidant and solubilizer of hydrophobic compounds in cosmetics
- At 5 mg/mL has good activity against most grass and broadleaf weeds
- Mode of action looks similar to pelargonic acid
- MBI filed a patent application for use of sarmentine to control plant pests



# Control of different plant species when treated with 5.0 mg/mL Sarmentine



Plant name	Control	Plant name	Control
Pigweed ( <i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> , L.)	80-100%	Lambsquarters ( <i>Chenopodium album</i> L.)	80-100%
Barnyard grass ( <i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> L.)	80-100%	Bluegrass ( <i>Poa annua</i> L.)	80-100%
Bindweed ( <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> , L.)	80-100%	Wild mustard ( <i>Brassica kaber</i> L.)	80-100%
Crabgrass ( <i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> L.)	80-100%	Black nightshade ( <i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.)	80-100%
Horse weed ( <i>Conyza Canadensis</i> L.)	< 20%	Curly dock ( <i>Rumex crispus</i> L.)	80-100%
Sprangletop ( <i>Leptochloa fascicularis</i> Lam.)	80-100%	Wheat (PR 1404) ( <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	80-100%
Dandelion ( <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> F.)	80-100%	Rice (M 104) ( <i>Oryza saliva</i> L.)	0%



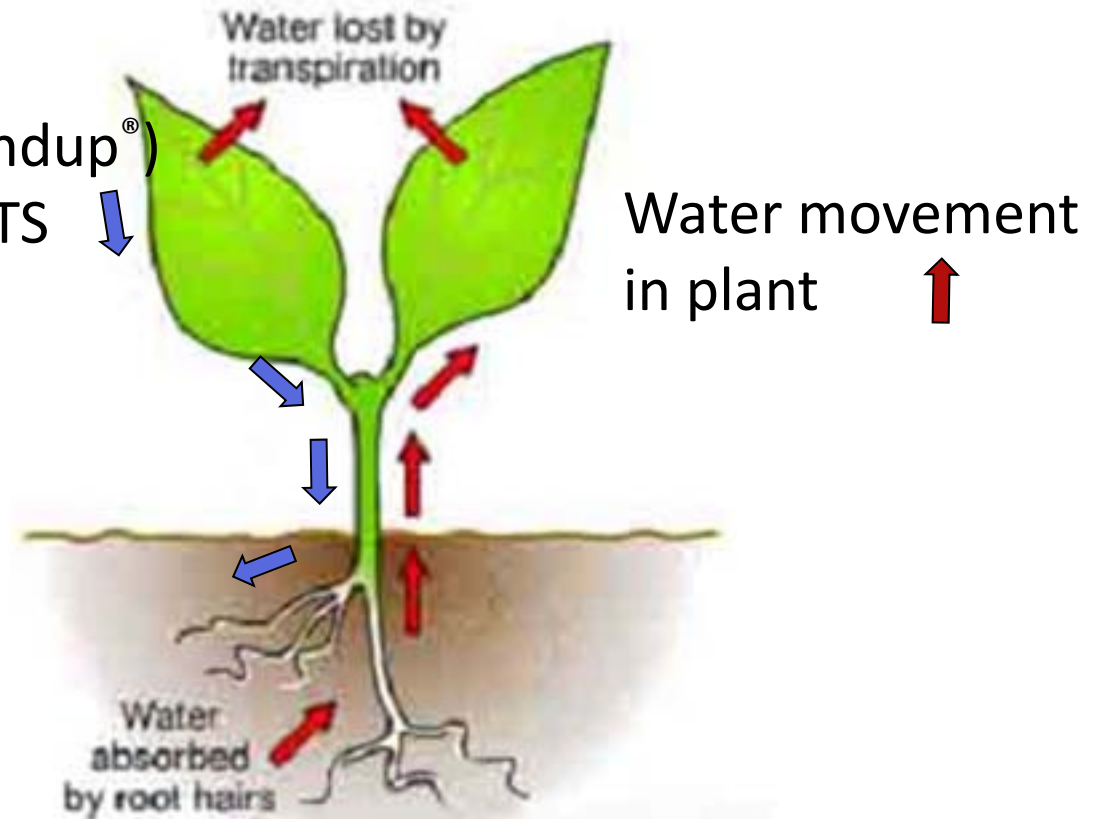
# MBI 010 - Our “Organic Roundup<sup>®</sup>”



## SYSTEMIC HERBICIDE

(e.g. glyphosate=Roundup<sup>®</sup>)

MOVEMENT IN PLANTS



Long term control of weeds – roots are killed after spraying the leaves

- New species of bacteria discovered from our screen
- Two novel systemic compounds produced by the bacteria
- Broad spectrum weed control
- Not the same mode of action as glyphosate
- Fermentation and formulation are critical for activity

# *Phoma macrostoma*



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

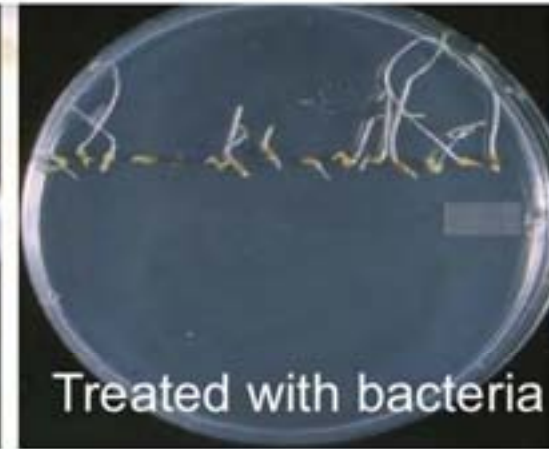
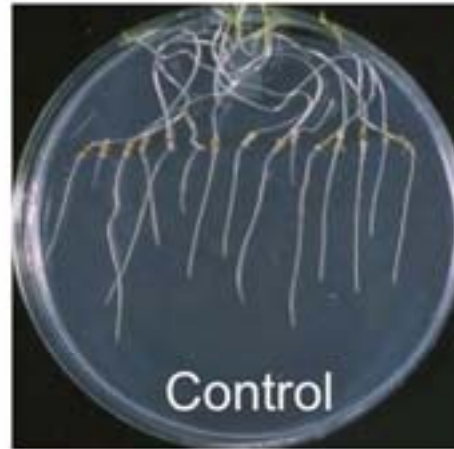
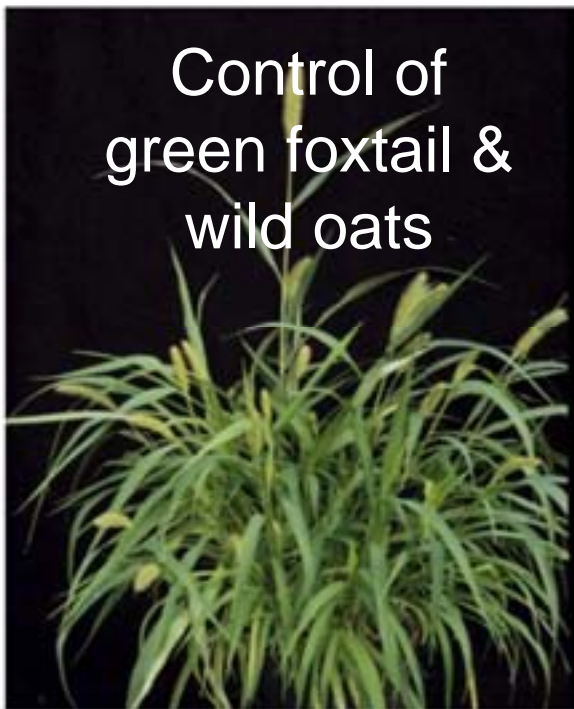
Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

## Bioherbicide

- Karen L. Bailey, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
- Discovered from diseased sow thistle
- Licensed to Scott's for turf
- Control of: dandelion (68%), field bindweed (60%), annual sow thistle (97%), and wild mustard (82%).
- Some reduction in perennial sow thistle, smart weed, Canada thistle, false cleavers, hemp nettle, and Brassica (25-50%).
- No effect on stinkweed, lambs quarters, and wild oat.
- Best on emerging seedlings; less effective on well established weeds using a single application



# *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Strain BRG 100



"Pesto"  
formulation

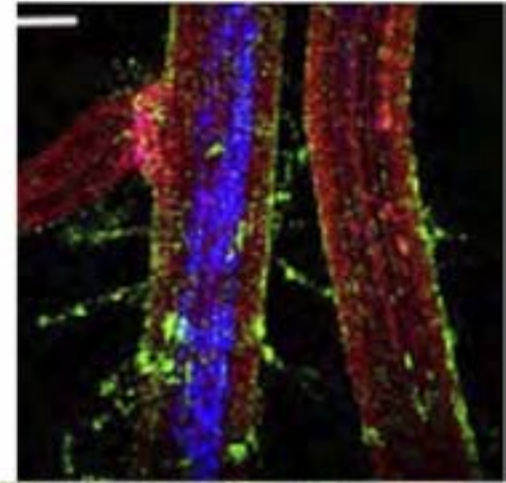
Sue Boyetchko & Russell Hynes, AAFC



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*Pseudomonas fluorescens*  
Strain BRG 100



Pre-emergence annual grass control in wheat



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Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

# Bioherbicides – an Emerging New Category for Biopesticides



- There is a need for new modes of action for weed control
- Efficacy can equal chemicals
- Can be combined with chemical pesticides for better weed control
- In some cases, costs can compete with chemical products
- Microbial strain selection, characterization of associated herbicidal compounds, and formulation are keys to efficacy



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Thanks to Dr. **Marja Koivunen**, VP of Research and all the scientists at MBI for the work in this presentation



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