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CA 2657794 C 2015/10/06

(11)(21) **2 657 794**

(12) **BREVET CANADIEN
CANADIAN PATENT**

(13) **C**

(86) **Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date:** 2007/07/19
(87) **Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date:** 2008/01/24
(45) **Date de délivrance/Issue Date:** 2015/10/06
(85) **Entrée phase nationale/National Entry:** 2009/01/13
(86) **N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.:** US 2007/073869
(87) **N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.:** 2008/011509
(30) **Priorité/Priority:** 2006/07/19 (US60/807,753)

(51) **Cl.Int./Int.Cl. A01N 41/10** (2006.01),
A01N 37/22 (2006.01), **A01P 13/00** (2006.01),
C05G 3/02 (2006.01)
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(54) **Titre :** COMPOSITION HERBICIDE COMPRENANT UN MELANGE DE MESOTRIONE ET DE S-METOLACHLOR POUR
CONTROLLER LA CROISSANCE DE LA DIGITAIRE SANGUINE ET DU TREFLE BLANC ET PROCEDE D'UTILISATION DE
CELLE-CI
(54) **Title:** HERBICIDAL COMPOSITION COMPRISING A MIXTURE OF MESOTRIONE AND S-METOLACHLOR FOR CONTROLLING
THE GROWTH OF LARGE CRABGRASS AND WHITE CLOVER, AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The present invention relates to a method of controlling the growth of weeds, in particular, large crabgrass and white clover, using a herbicidal composition comprising mesotrione and a s-metolachlor.



(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 January 2008 (24.01.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/011509 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
A01N 63/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/073869

(22) International Filing Date: 19 July 2007 (19.07.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/807,753 19 July 2006 (19.07.2006) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
27 November 2008

(54) Title: HERBICIDAL COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of controlling the growth of weeds, in particular, large crabgrass and white clover, using a herbicidal composition comprising mesotrione and a s-metolachlor.



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HERBICIDAL COMPOSITION COMPRISING A MIXTURE OF MESOTRIONE AND
S-METOLACHLOR FOR CONTROLLING THE GROWTH OF LARGE
CRABGRASS AND WHITE CLOVER, AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

The present invention relates to a method of controlling the growth of weeds, in particular, large crabgrass and white clover, using a herbicidal composition comprising
5 mesotrione and a s-metolachlor.

The protection of crops from weeds and other vegetation that inhibit crop growth is a constantly recurring problem in agriculture and turf management. In addition, aesthetically, it may be of interest to remove such unwanted weeds and vegetation, for example, when
10 growing turf in areas such as golf courses, lawns and public parks. To help combat these problems, researchers in the field of synthetic chemistry have produced an extensive variety of chemicals and chemical formulations effective in the control of such unwanted growth. Chemical herbicides of many types have been disclosed in the literature and a large number are in commercial use. Commercial herbicides and some that are still in development are
15 described in 'The Pesticide Manual', 13th Edition, published 2003 by the British Crop Protection Council.

In some cases, herbicidal active ingredients have been shown to be more effective in combination than when applied individually, and this is referred to as "synergism", since the
20 combination demonstrates a potency or activity level exceeding that which it would be expected to have based on knowledge of the individual potencies of the components. The present invention resides in the discovery that mesotrione, or a salt or metal chelate thereof, and s-metolachlor, already known individually for their herbicidal properties, display a synergistic effect when applied in combination to weeds such as large crabgrass and white
25 clover.

The herbicidal compounds forming the composition of this invention are independently known in the art for their effects on plant growth. They are disclosed in 'The Pesticide Manual', *ibid*, and are also commercially available.

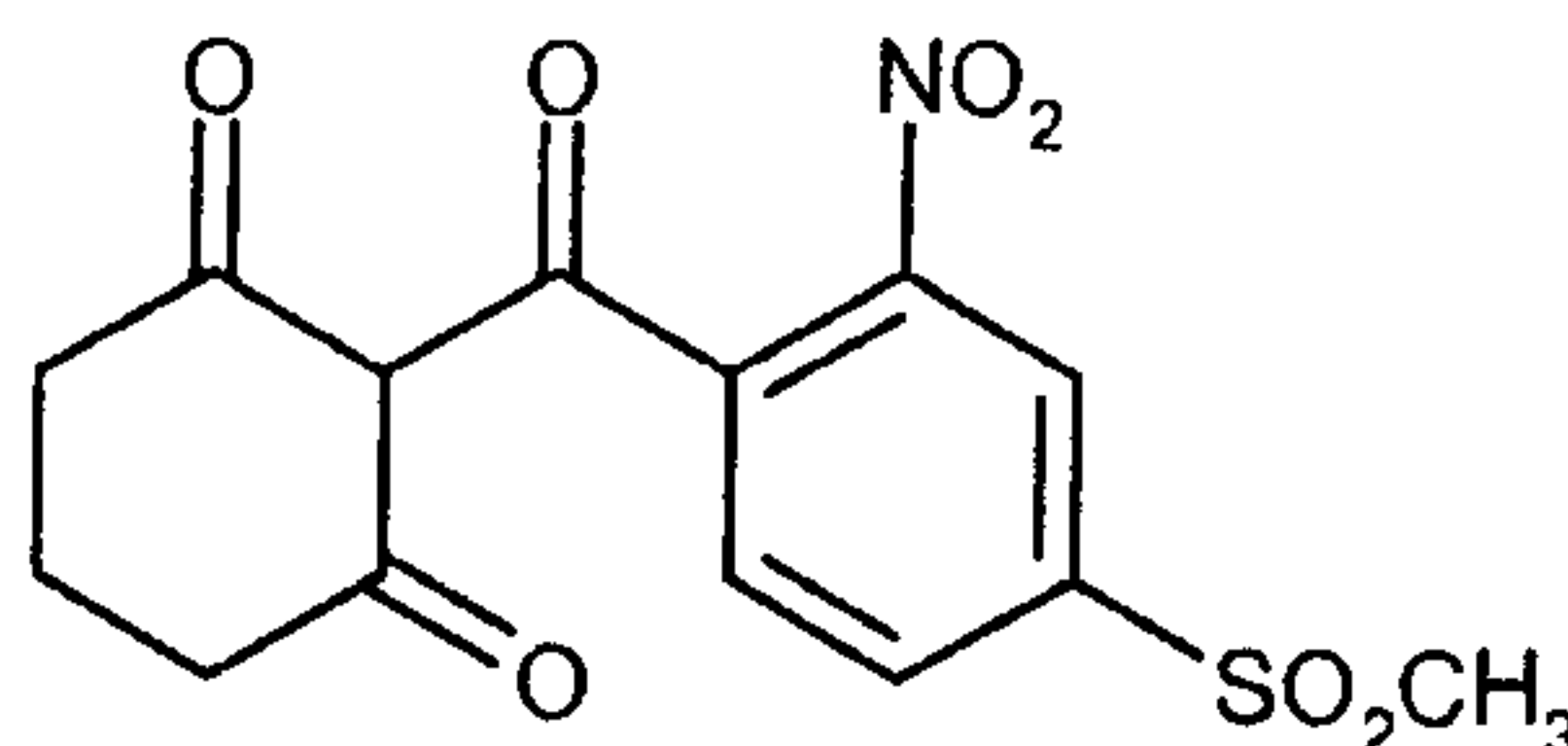
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Mesotrione (2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione) is a member of an important class of selective herbicides, the triketones and works by affecting

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carotenoid biosynthesis. In particular, it inhibits the enzyme 4-hydroxyphenyl-pyruvate dioxygenase (it is an HPPD-inhibitor). In the acid form, its structure can be represented as:



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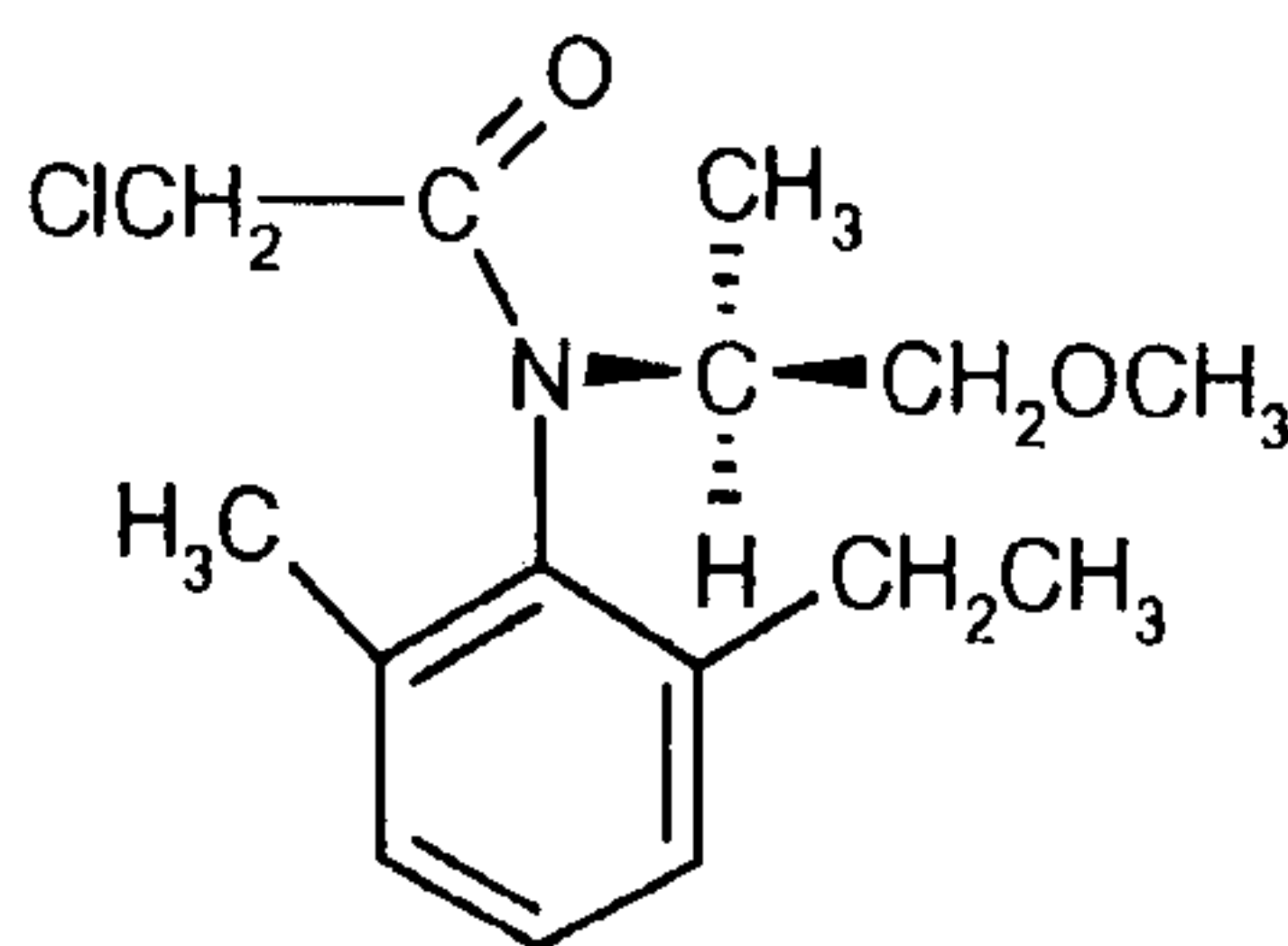
In addition to the acid form, mesotrione also forms salts and metal chelate, for example, a copper chelate. These metal chelates are disclosed, *inter alia*, in US Patent No. 5,912,207 where they are shown to have unexpectedly superior stability in certain environments when compared to unchelated mesotrione.

10

Mesotrione is best known for its ability to control a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds at a wide range of growth stages when applied post-emergence on corn and turfgrass. It is typically used at a low rate (100-225 grams of active ingredient per hectare depending on herbicide formulation on application timing) to control weeds which are present at application and which emerge for up to four weeks afterwards. Once applied, mesotrione is rapidly absorbed by the leaves, shoots, roots and seeds. In susceptible weeds, it disrupts carotenoid biosynthesis, an essential process for plant growth and this leads to plant death. Unlike weeds, corn plants and certain turfgrass species are able to tolerate mesotrione by rapidly breaking down the active compound into inactive compounds.

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S-metolachlor is a chloroacetamide herbicide and inhibits cell division. Its structure can be represented as:



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Accordingly, the present invention provides a method for controlling or modifying the growth of large crabgrass or white clover, comprising applying to the locus of the large crabgrass or white clover, a herbicidally effective amount of a composition comprising a mixture of mesotrione and s-metolachlor.

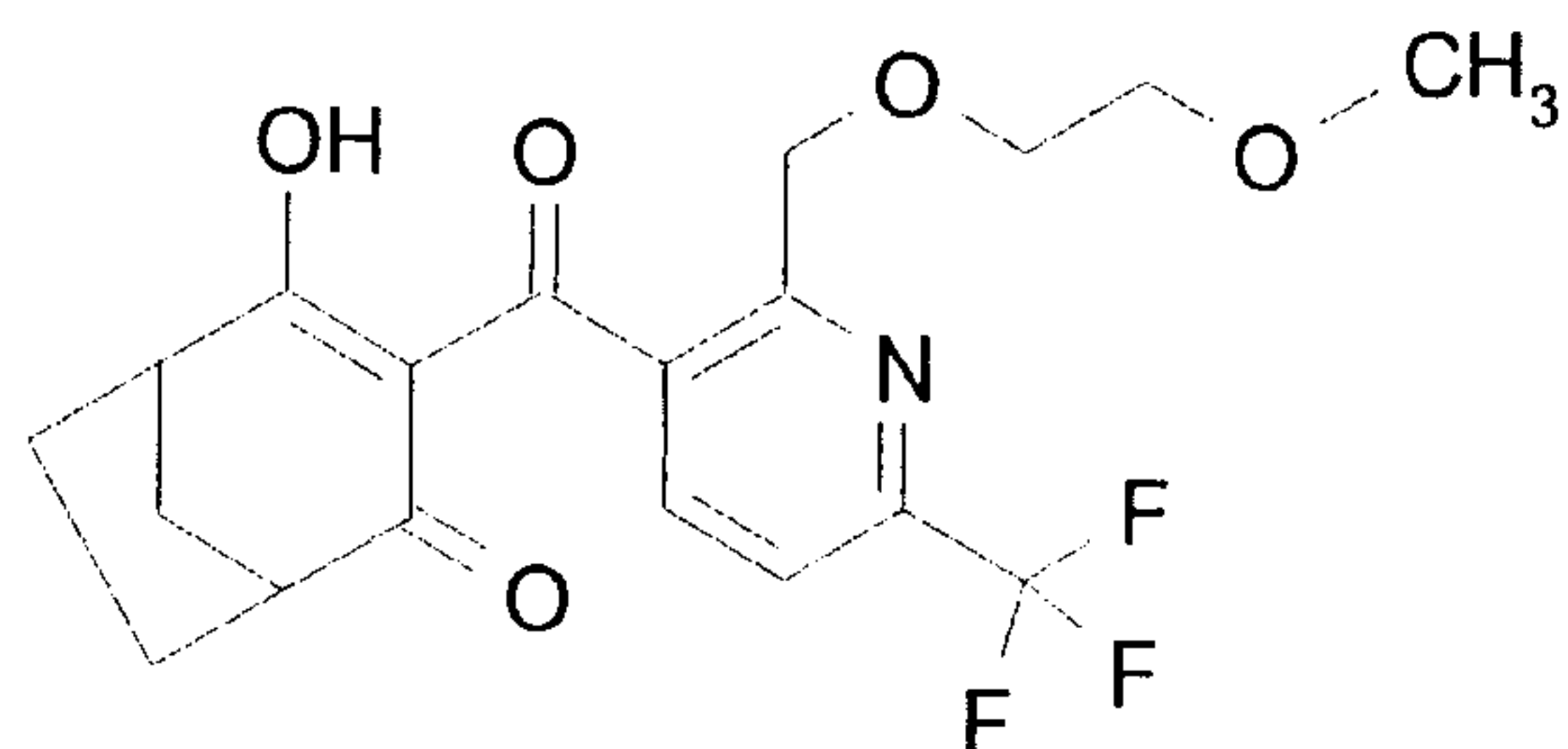
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The composition contains a herbicidally effective amount of a combination of mesotrione and s-metolachlor. The term 'herbicide' as used herein denotes a compound which controls or modifies the growth of plants. The term 'herbicidally effective amount' indicates the quantity of such a compound or combination of such compounds which is capable of producing a controlling or modifying effect on the growth of plants. Controlling or modifying effects include all deviation from natural development, for example: killing, retardation, leaf burn, albinism, dwarfing and the like. For example, plants that are not killed are often stunted and non-competitive with flowering disrupted. The term 'plants' refers to all physical parts of a plant, including seeds, seedlings, saplings, roots, tubers, stems, stalks, foliage and fruits.

15

It is noted that mesotrione is only one of a number of herbicides that act as HPPD inhibitors. Other HPPD inhibitors are also known and may be used in the composition of the present invention in place of mesotrione. Suitably, other HPPD inhibitors for use in the present invention may be selected from the group consisting of triketones, isoxazoles, pyrazoles, benzobicyclon and ketospiradox. Further details of the individual compounds which fall within the triketones, isoxazoles and pyrazoles may be found in PCT Publication No. WO 2005/053407 but there may be mentioned sulcotrione, isoxaflutole, isoxachlortole, benxofenap, pyrazolynate and pyrazoxyfen. Further suitable HPPD inhibitors for use in the present invention in place of mesotrione include tembotrione, topramezone, and a compound of the formula

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As used herein, the designation 'mesotrione' includes the salts and chelated forms of mesotrione as well as the acid form and also includes any enolic tautomeric forms that may give rise to geometric isomers. Furthermore, in certain cases, the various substituents and/or chelated forms may contribute to optical isomerism and/or stereoisomerism. All such

5 tautomeric forms, racemic mixtures and isomers are included within the scope of the present invention.

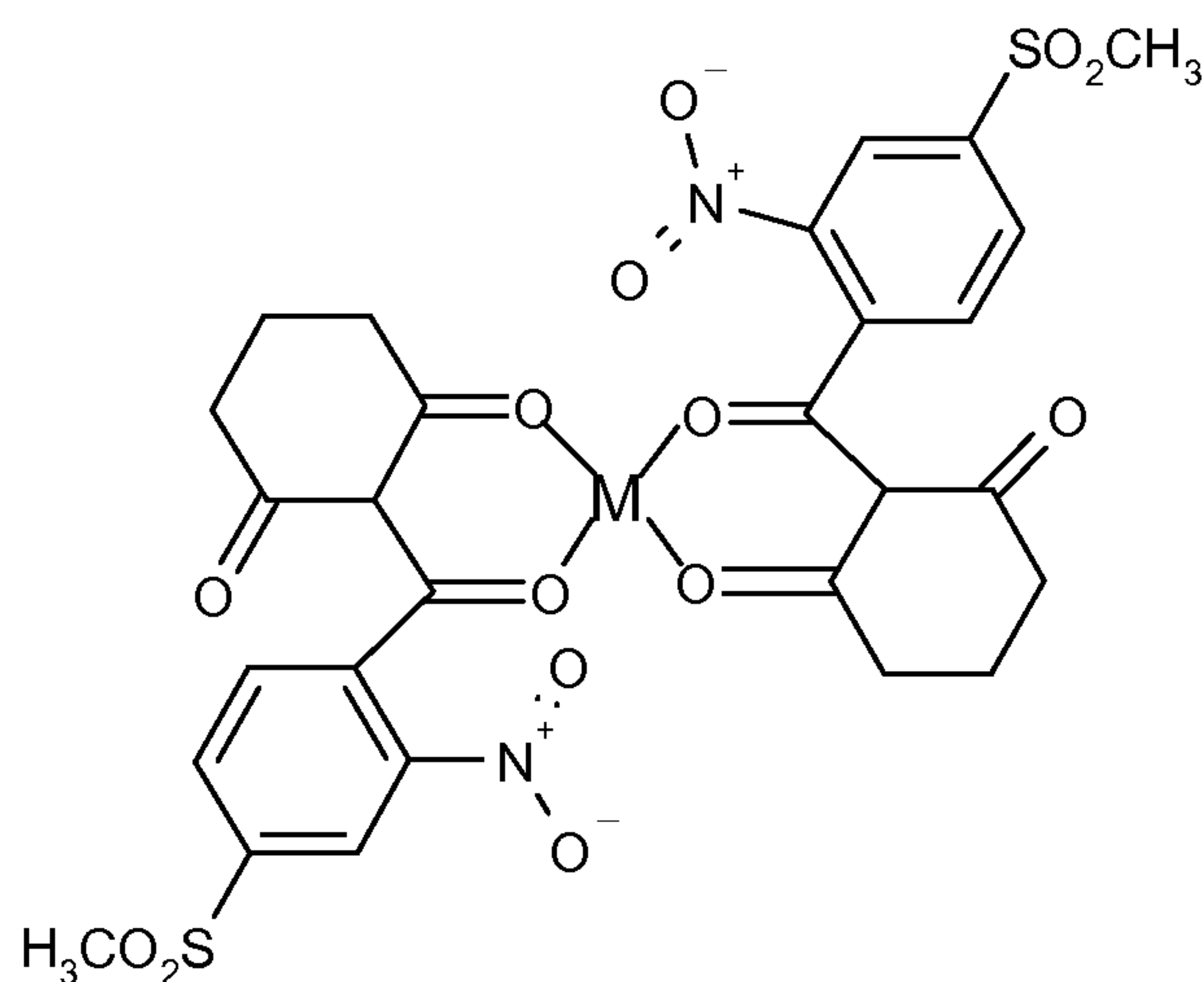
In one embodiment of the invention, the mesotrione is present as the acid form. In a further embodiment, mesotrione is present as a salt or a metal chelate.

10

Suitable salts of mesotrione include salts of cations or anions which are known and accepted in the art for the formation of salts for agricultural or horticultural use. Such salts may be formed, for example, using amines, alkali metal bases, alkaline earth metal bases and quaternary ammonium bases.

15

Metal chelates of 2-(substituted benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione compounds including mesotrione are described, *inter alia*, in US Patent No. 5,912,207. In one embodiment, suitable metal chelates of mesotrione have the general structure:



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wherein M represents a di- or trivalent metal ion.

Suitably, the di- or trivalent metal ion may be a Cu^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Ti^{3+} or Fe^{3+} ion. More suitably, the metal ion may be a divalent transition metal ion such as

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Cu^{2+} , Ni^{2+} , Zn^{2+} and Co^{2+} . More suitably the metal ion may be Cu^{2+} and Zn^{2+} and most suitably Cu^{2+} .

Herbicidal metal chelates of mesotrione for use in this invention may be prepared by the methods described in the aforementioned US Patent, or by the application and adaptation of known methods used or described in the chemical literature. In particular, any appropriate salt which would be a source of a di- or trivalent metal ion may be used to form the metal chelate of the dione compound in accordance with this invention. Particularly suitable salts include chlorides, sulphates, nitrates, carbonates, phosphates and acetates.

10

Suitably, the composition for use in the invention comprises mesotrione and s-metolachlor in a synergistically effective amount. In the compositions for use in the invention, the weight ratio of mesotrione to s-metolachlor at which the herbicidal effect is synergistic lies within the range of between about 1:100 and about 1:1. Preferably, the weight ratio of mesotrione to s-metolachlor is between about 1:85 and about 1:10. More preferably, the weight ratio of mesotrione to s-metolachlor herbicide is between about 1:5 and about 1:25, with a weight ratio of between about 1:10 and about 4:20 being especially preferred.

The rate at which the composition of the invention is applied will depend upon the particular type of weed to be controlled, the degree of control required and the timing and method of application. In general, the compositions of the invention can be applied at an application rate of between 0.005 kilograms/hectare (kg/ha) and about 5.0kg/ha, based on the total amount of active ingredient (mesotrione and s-metolachlor) in the composition. An application rate of between about 0.1 kg/ha and about 3.0 kg/ha is preferred, with an application rate of between about 0.5 kg/ha and 1.2 kg/ha being especially preferred. It is noted that the rates used in the examples below are glasshouse rates and are lower than those normally applied in the field as herbicide effects tend to be magnified in such conditions.

In addition to large crabgrass and white clover, the composition of the invention may be used against a large number of agronomically important weeds, including, but not limited to, monocotyledonous weeds such as *Agrostis spp.*, *Digitaria spp.* (e.g. *D. ischaemum*, *D. sanguinalis*), *Avena spp.*, *Setaria spp.*, *Lolium spp.*, *Echinochloa spp.*, *Eleusine spp.* (e.g.

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Eleusine indica), *Scirpus* spp., *Monochoria* spp., *Sagittaria* spp., *Bromus* spp., *Alopecurus* spp., *Sorghum halepense*, *Rottboellia* spp., *Cyperus* spp. (e.g. *Cyperus esculentus*) and dicotyledonous weeds such as *Stellaria* spp., *Nasturtium* spp., *Sinapis* spp., *Solanum* spp., *Phaseolus* spp., *Taraxacum* spp. (e.g. *Taraxacum officinale*), *Trifolium* spp. (e.g. *Trifolium* 5 *repens*), *Abutilon* spp., *Sida* spp., *Xanthium* spp., *Amaranthus* spp., *Chenopodium* spp., *Ipomoea* spp., *Chrysanthemum* spp., *Galium* spp., *Viola* spp. and *Veronica* spp..

More specifically, among the weeds which may be controlled by the composition of the invention, there may be mentioned monocotyledonous weeds such as grasses (e.g. large 10 and smooth crabgrass, bent grass and nimbleweed) and dicotyledonous weeds such as dandelion, clovers (for example, white and red clover), chickweed, henbit, corn speedwell, oxalis, buckhorn and broadleaf plantain, dollar weed, FL pusley, lambsquarters, knotweed, ragweed, wild violets, pigweed and hedge weed. In a particular embodiment, the compositions of the invention may be used to control monocot weeds such as grasses or 15 dicot weeds such as clover. Suitably, the grass is large crabgrass and the clover is white clover.

For the purposes of the present invention, the term 'weeds' includes undesirable crop species such as volunteer crops. For example, in the context of turf grass crops such as on a 20 golf course, creeping bentgrass putting green turf can be considered a 'volunteer' if found in a fairway section where a different variety of grass is being cultivated. The other grasses listed below can, similarly, be considered weeds when found in the wrong place.

The 'locus' is intended to include soil, seeds, and seedlings as well as established 25 vegetation.

The benefits of the present invention are seen most when the pesticidal composition is applied to kill weeds in growing crops of useful plants: such as maize (corn) including field corn, pop corn and sweet corn; cotton, wheat, rice, oats, potato sugarbeet, plantation 30 crops (such as bananas, fruit trees, rubber trees, tree nurseries), vines, asparagus, bushberries (such as blueberries), caneberries, cranberries, flax, grain sorghum, okra, peppermint, rhubarb, spearmint and sugarcane.

‘Crops’ are understood to also include various turf grasses including, but not limited to, the cool-season turf grasses and the warm-season turf grasses.

Cool season turfgrasses include, for example, bluegrasses (*Poa* L.), such as Kentucky
5 bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.), rough bluegrass (*Poa trivialis* L.), Canada bluegrass (*Poa
compressa* L.) and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.); bentgrasses (*Agrostis* L.), such as
creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis palustris* Huds.), colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis tenius* Sibth.),
velvet bentgrass (*Agrostis canina* L.) and redtop (*Agrostis alba* L.); fescues (*Festuca* L.),
such as tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.), meadow fescue (*Festuca elatior* L.) and
10 fine fescues such as creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra* L.), chewings fescue (*Festuca rubra*
var. *commutata* Gaud.), sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina* L.) and hard fescue (*Festuca*
longifolia); and ryegrasses (*Lolium* L.), such as perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) and
annual (Italian) ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum* Lam.).

15 Warm season turfgrasses include, for example, Bermudagrasses (*Cynodon* L. C.
Rich), including hybrid and common Bermudagrass; Zoysiagrasses (*Zoysia* Willd.), St.
Augustinegrass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum* (Walt.) Kuntze); and centipedegrass
(*Eremochloa ophiuroides* (Munro.) Hack.).

20 In addition ‘crops’ are to be understood to include those crops that have been made
tolerant to pests and pesticides, including herbicides or classes of herbicides (and, suitably,
the herbicides of the present invention), as a result of conventional methods of breeding or
genetic engineering. Tolerance to herbicides means a reduced susceptibility to damage
caused by a particular herbicide compared to conventional crop breeds. Crops can be
25 modified or bred so as to be tolerant, for example, to HPPD inhibitors such as mesotrione,
EPSPS inhibitors such as glyphosate or to glufosinate. It is noted that corn is inherently
tolerant to mesotrione.

The composition of the present invention is useful in controlling the growth of
30 undesirable vegetation by pre-emergence or post-emergence application to the locus where
control is desired, depending on the crop over which the combination is applied. In one
embodiment, therefore, the herbicidal composition of the invention is applied as a pre-

emergent application. In a further embodiment, the herbicidal composition of the invention is applied as a post-emergent application.

The compounds of the invention may be applied either simultaneously or
5 sequentially. If administered sequentially, the components may be administered in any order in a suitable timescale, for example, with no longer than 24 hours between the time of administering the first component and the time of administering the last component. Suitably, all the components are administered within a timescale of a few hours, such as one hour. If the components are administered simultaneously, they may be administered
10 separately or as a tank mix or as a pre-formulated mixture of all the components or as a pre-formulated mixture of some of the components tank mixed with the remaining components.

In practice, the compositions of the invention are applied as a formulation containing the various adjuvants and carriers known to or used in the industry. The compositions of the
15 invention may thus be formulated as granules (and, suitably, as stabilised granules, as described below), as wettable powders, as emulsifiable concentrates, as powders or dusts, as flowables, as solutions, as suspensions or emulsions, or as controlled release forms such as microcapsules. These formulations may contain as little as about 0.5% to as much as about 95% or more by weight of active ingredient. The optimum amount for any given compound
20 will depend on formulation, application equipment and nature of the plants to be controlled.

Wettable powders are in the form of finely divided particles which disperse readily in water or other liquid carriers. The particles contain the active ingredient retained in a solid matrix. Typical solid matrices include fuller's earth, kaolin clays, silicas and other readily
25 wet organic or inorganic solids. Wettable powders normally contain about 5% to about 95% of the active ingredient plus a small amount of wetting, dispersing or emulsifying agent.

Emulsifiable concentrates are homogeneous liquid compositions dispersible in water or other liquid and may consist entirely of the active compound with a liquid or solid
30 emulsifying agent, or may also contain a liquid carrier, such as xylene, heavy aromatic naphthas, isophorone and other non-volatile organic solvents. In use, these concentrates are dispersed in water or other liquid and normally applied as a spray to the area to be treated.

The amount of active ingredient may range from about 0.5% to about 95% of the concentrate.

Granular formulations include both extrudates and relatively coarse particles and are usually applied without dilution to the area in which suppression of vegetation is desired. Typical carriers for granular formulations include fertiliser, sand, fuller's earth, attapulgite clay, bentonite clays, montmorillonite clay, vermiculite, perlite, calcium carbonate, brick, pumice, pyrophyllite, kaolin, dolomite, plaster, wood flour, ground corn cobs, ground peanut hulls, sugars, sodium chloride, sodium sulphate, sodium silicate, sodium borate, magnesia, mica, iron oxide, zinc oxide, titanium oxide, antimony oxide, cryolite, gypsum, diatomaceous earth, calcium sulphate and other organic or inorganic materials which absorb or which can be coated with the active compound. Particularly suitable is a fertiliser granule carrier. Granular formulations normally contain about 5% to about 25% active ingredients which may include surface-active agents such as heavy aromatic naphthas, kerosene and other petroleum fractions, or vegetable oils; and/or stickers such as dextrans, glue or synthetic resins. Suitably, the granular formulation may be a stabilised composition which comprises at least one granular substrate material containing at least one metal chelate of mesotrione and s-metolachlor. The granular substrate material can be one of the typical carriers mentioned above and/or can be a fertiliser material e.g. urea/formaldehyde fertilisers, urea, potassium chloride, ammonium compounds, phosphorus compounds, sulphur, similar plant nutrients and micronutrients and mixtures or combinations thereof. The metal chelate of mesotrione and the s-metolachlor may be homogeneously distributed throughout the granule or may be spray impregnated or absorbed onto the granule substrate after the granules are formed.

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Dusts are free-flowing admixtures of the active ingredient with finely divided solids such as talc, clays, flours and other organic and inorganic solids which act as dispersants and carriers.

30

Microcapsules are typically droplets or granules of the active material enclosed in an inert porous shell which allows escape of the enclosed material to the surroundings at controlled rates. Encapsulated droplets are typically about 1 to 50 microns in diameter. The enclosed liquid typically constitutes about 50 to 95% of the weight of the capsule and may

include solvent in addition to the active compound. Encapsulated granules are generally porous granules with porous membranes sealing the granule pore openings, retaining the active species in liquid form inside the granule pores. Granules typically range from 1 millimetre to 1 centimetre, preferably 1 to 2 millimetres in diameter. Granules are formed by extrusion, agglomeration or prilling, or are naturally occurring. Examples of such materials are vermiculite, sintered clay, kaolin, attapulgite clay, sawdust and granular carbon. Shell or membrane materials include natural and synthetic rubbers, cellulosic materials, styrene-butadiene copolymers, polyacrylonitriles, polyacrylates, polyesters, polyamides, polyureas, polyurethanes and starch xanthates.

Other useful formulations for herbicidal applications include simple solutions of the active ingredients in a solvent in which it is completely soluble at the desired concentration, such as acetone, alkylated naphthalenes, xylene and other organic solvents. Pressurised sprayers, wherein the active ingredient is dispersed in finely-divided form as a result of vaporisation of a low boiling dispersant solvent carrier, may also be used.

Many of these formulations described above include wetting, dispersing or emulsifying agents. Examples are alkyl and alkylaryl sulphonates and sulphates and their salts, polyhydric alcohols; polyethoxylated alcohols, esters and fatty amines. These agents, when used, normally comprise from 0.1% to 15% by weight of the formulation.

Suitable agricultural adjuvants and carriers that are useful in formulating the compositions for use in the invention in the formulation types described above are well known to those skilled in the art. Suitable examples of the different classes are found in the non-limiting list below.

Liquid carriers that can be employed include water, toluene, xylene, petroleum naphtha, crop oil, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclohexanone, acetic anhydride, acetonitrile, acetophenone, amyl acetate, 2-butanone, chlorobenzene, cyclohexane, cyclohexanol, alkyl acetates, diacetonalcohol, 1,2-dichloropropane, diethanolamine, p-diethylbenzene, diethylene glycol, diethylene glycol abietate, diethylene glycol butyl ether, diethylene glycol ethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ether, N,N-dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, 1,4-dioxane, dipropylene glycol, dipropylene glycol methyl ether,

dipropylene glycol dibenzoate, diproxitol, alkyl pyrrolidinone, ethyl acetate, 2-ethyl hexanol, ethylene carbonate, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, 2-heptanone, alpha pinene, d-limonene, ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol butyl ether, ethylene glycol methyl ether, gamma-butyrolactone, glycerol, glycerol diacetate, glycerol monoacetate, glycerol triacetate, hexadecane, hexylene glycol, isoamyl acetate, isobornyl acetate, isooctane, isophorone, isopropyl benzene, isopropyl myristate, lactic acid, laurylamine, mesityl oxide, methoxy-propanol, methyl isoamyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, methyl laurate, methyl octanoate, methyl oleate, methylene chloride, m-xylene, n-hexane, n-octylamine, octadecanoic acid, octyl amine acetate, oleic acid, oleylamine, o-xylene, phenol, polyethylene glycol (PEG400), propionic acid, propylene glycol, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, p-xylene, toluene, triethyl phosphate, triethylene glycol, xylene sulfonic acid, paraffin, mineral oil, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, ethyl acetate, amyl acetate, butyl acetate, methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, and higher molecular weight alcohols such as amyl alcohol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, hexanol, octanol, etc. ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerine, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, and the like. Water is generally the carrier of choice for the dilution of concentrates.

Suitable solid carriers include talc, titanium dioxide, pyrophyllite clay, silica, attapulgite clay, kieselguhr, chalk, diatomaceous earth, lime, calcium carbonate, bentonite clay, fuller's earth, fertiliser, cotton seed hulls, wheat flour, soybean flour, pumice, wood flour, walnut shell flour, lignin and the like.

A broad range of surface-active agents are advantageously employed in both said liquid and solid compositions, especially those designed to be diluted with carrier before application. The surface-active agents can be anionic, cationic, non-ionic or polymeric in character and can be employed as emulsifying agents, wetting agents, suspending agents or for other purposes. Typical surface active agents include salts of alkyl sulfates, such as diethanolammonium lauryl sulphate; alkylarylsulfonate salts, such as calcium dodecylbenzenesulfonate; alkylphenol-alkylene oxide addition products, such as nonylphenol-C.sub. 18 ethoxylate; alcohol-alkylene oxide addition products, such as tridecyl alcohol-C.sub. 16 ethoxylate; soaps, such as sodium stearate; alkyl naphthalenesulfonate salts, such as sodium dibutyl naphthalenesulfonate; dialkyl esters of sulfosuccinate salts, such as sodium di(2-ethylhexyl) sulfosuccinate; sorbitol esters, such as sorbitol oleate; quaternary

amines, such as lauryl trimethylammonium chloride; polyethylene glycol esters of fatty acids, such as polyethylene glycol stearate; block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide; and salts of mono and dialkyl phosphate esters.

5 Other adjuvants commonly utilized in agricultural compositions include crystallisation inhibitors, viscosity modifiers, suspending agents, spray droplet modifiers, pigments, antioxidants, foaming agents, light-blocking agents, compatibilizing agents, antifoam agents, sequestering agents, neutralising agents and buffers, corrosion inhibitors, dyes, odorants, spreading agents, penetration aids, micronutrients, emollients, lubricants,
10 sticking agents, and the like. The compositions can also be formulated with liquid fertilizers or solid, particulate fertiliser carriers such as ammonium nitrate, urea and the like.

 An important factor in influencing the usefulness of a given herbicide is its selectivity towards crops. In some cases, a beneficial crop is susceptible to the effects of the herbicide.
15 To be effective, an herbicide must cause minimal damage (preferably no damage) to the beneficial crop while maximizing damage to weed species which infest the locus of the crop. To preserve the beneficial aspects of herbicide use and to minimize crop damage, it is known to apply herbicides in combination with an antidote if necessary. As used here in 'antidote' describes a compound which has the effect of establishing herbicide selectivity, i.e.
20 continued herbicidal phytotoxicity to weed species by the herbicide and reduced or non-phytotoxicity to the cultivated crop species. The term 'antidotally effective amount' describes an amount of an antidote compound which counteracts to some degree a phytotoxic response of a beneficial crop to an herbicide. If necessary or desired for a particular application or crop, the composition of the present invention may contain an
25 antidotally effective amount of an antidote for the herbicides of the invention. Those skilled in the art will be familiar with antidotes which are suitable for use with mesotrione and s-metolachlor and can readily determine an antidotally effective amount for a particular compound and application.

30 In addition, further, other biocidally active ingredients or compositions may be combined with the herbicidal composition of this invention. For example, the compositions may contain, in addition to mesotrione and s-metolachlor, other herbicides, insecticides,

fungicides, bactericides, acaricides, nematocides and/or plant growth regulators, in order to broaden the spectrum of activity.

Each of the above formulations can be prepared as a package containing the herbicide
5 together with other ingredients of the formulation (diluent, emulsifiers, surfactants, etc.).
The formulations can also be prepared by a tank mix method, in which the ingredients are
obtained separately and combined at the grower site.

These formulations can be applied to the areas where control is desired by
10 conventional methods. Dust and liquid compositions, for example, can be applied by the use
of power-dusters, broom and hand sprayers and spray dusters. The formulations can also be
applied from airplanes as a dust or a spray or by rope wick applications. To modify or
control growth of germinating seeds or emerging seedlings, dust and liquid formulations can
be distributed in the soil to a depth of at least one-half inch below the soil surface or applied
15 to the soil surface only, by spraying or sprinkling. The formulations can also be applied by
addition to irrigation water. This permits penetration of the formulations into the soil
together with the irrigation water. Dust compositions, granular compositions or liquid
formulations applied to the surface of the soil can be distributed below the surface of the soil
by conventional means such as discing, dragging or mixing operations.

20

The present invention can be used in any situation in which weed control is desired,
for example in agriculture, on golf courses, or in gardens. The present invention is
particularly suitable for the selective control of weeds such as large crabgrass and white
clover in turfgrass. Mixtures of mesotrione and s-metolachlor coated on or impregnated in a
25 fertiliser granule are particularly useful.

The following examples are for illustrative purposes only. The examples are not
intended as necessarily representative of the overall testing performed and are not intended
30 to limit the invention in any way. As one skilled in the art is aware, in herbicidal testing, a
significant number of factors that are not readily controllable can affect the results of
individual tests and render them non-reproducible. For example, the results may vary
depending on environmental factors, such as amount of sunlight and water, soil type, pH of

the soil, temperature and humidity, among others. Also, the depth of planting, the application rate of individual and combined herbicides, the application rate of any antidote, and the ratio of the individual herbicides to one another and/or to an antidote as well as the nature of crops or weeds being tested can affect the results of the test. Results may vary
5 from crop to crop within the crop varieties.

EXAMPLES

10 Example 1 – Control of large crabgrass with mesotrione and s-metolachlor applied post-emergence

A glasshouse trial was carried out. Large crabgrass seeds were sown into standard glasshouse potting mix (1:1 v/v Promix:Vero sand soil) contained in 10 cm square plastic pots. Treatments were replicated three times. Mesotrione (in the form Callisto[®] 480SE) was
15 applied post-emergence to large crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*) at either 12g ai/ha or 24g ai/ha with or without s-metolachlor (in the form Dual Magnum[®]). When used, s-metolachlor was applied at a rate of 500g ai/ha or 1000g ai/ha. The adjuvant system was X-77 at 0.1% v/v in deionised water. 200 litres of herbicide/adjuvant system was used per hectare. General weed control was evaluated at 7 and 14 days after treatment (DAT). It is noted that
20 all herbicides were applied at reduced field rates because herbicide effects are magnified in a glasshouse environment. Rates were chosen to give a 50 to 70% level of control with herbicides applied alone as this allows for detection of any synergistic effect when tank mixtures are used.

25 It is noted that control of large crabgrass with mesotrione alone was relatively high at 7 DAT; thus it was not possible to detect synergy when mesotrione was mixed with s-metolachlor at 7 DAT. Large crabgrass outgrew initial control by mesotrione at 14 DAT and synergy was observed for a combination of mesotrione and s-metolachlor 14 DAT: Table 1 shows these results. The results were evaluated using the Colby formula. The expected
30 result for (A+B) is $(A+B) - (A \times B / 100)$ where A and B are the 'observed' results for A and B on their own. Control from the tank mixture is synergistic if the actual result is significantly higher than the expected result (significance based on Student-Newman-Keuls multiple range test).

TABLE 1

Herbicide	Rate (g ai/ha)	Plus Mesotrione at 12 g ai/ha		Plus Mesotrione at 24 g ai/ha	
		Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected
s-metolachlor	500	70.0	46.7	82.0	66.7
s-metolachlor	1000	75.0	46.7	85.0	66.7

S-metolachlor provided no control of large crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*) on its own; mesotrione provided 46.7% and 66.7% control at the lower and higher rates, respectively. Using the Colby formula and Student-Newman-Keuls multiple range test, synergy was seen at both the high and low rates of mesotrione and the low and high rates of s-metolachlor when a combination of mesotrione and s-metolachlor was used to control large crabgrass. A repeat of this experiment confirmed these results:

10

TABLE 2

Herbicide	Rate (g ai/ha)	Plus Mesotrione at 12 g ai/ha		Plus Mesotrione at 24 g ai/ha	
		Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected
S-metolachlor	500	62.0	37.0	73.0	68.0
S-metolachlor	1000	65.0	37.0	85.0	68.0

It is noted that in this latter experiment, s-metolachlor gave 7% control at 14DAT when used at both rates (500g ai/ha and 1000 g ai/ha) in the absence of mesotrione.

15

It is also noted that when the experiment was carried out with pre-emergent application of the herbicides, synergism was not seen; however, this was because, at the rate of s-metolachlor used (5 g ai/ha), control of large crabgrass was almost complete (95%) even in the absence of mesotrione.

20

Example 2 – Control of white clover with mesotrione and s-metolachlor applied post-emergence

A glasshouse trial was carried out. White clover seeds were sown into standard glasshouse potting mix (1:1 v/v Promix:Vero sand soil) contained in 10 cm square plastic

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pots. Treatments were replicated three times. Mesotrione (in the form Callisto[®] 480SE) was applied post-emergence to white clover (*Trifolium repens*) at either 50g ai/ha or 100g ai/ha with or without s-metolachlor (in the form Dual Magnum[®]). When used, s-metolachlor was applied at a rate of 1000g ai/ha. The adjuvant system was X-77 at 0.1% v/v in deionised water. 200 litres of herbicide/adjuvant system was used per hectare. General weed control was evaluated at 10 and 16 days after treatment (DAT). It is noted that all herbicides were applied at reduced field rates because herbicide effects are magnified in a glasshouse environment. Rates were chosen to give a 50 to 70% level of control with herbicides applied alone as this allows for detection of any synergistic effect when tank mixtures are used.

10

Synergy was observed for a combination of mesotrione and s-metolachlor at 16 DAT, when both were used at the lower rates: Table 3 shows these results. The results were evaluated using the Colby formula. The expected result for (A+B) is $(A+B) - (A \times B / 100)$ where A and B are the 'observed' results for A and B on their own. Control from the tank mixture is synergistic if the actual result is significantly higher than the expected result (significance based on Student-Newman-Keuls multiple range test).

15

TABLE 3

Herbicide	Rate (g ai/ha)	Plus Mesotrione at 50 g ai/ha	
		Actual	Expected
s-metolachlor	500	48.3	34.0

20

S-metolachlor provided very little control of white clover (*Trifolium repens*) on its own (3% control at a rate of 500g ai/ha); mesotrione provided 32% control at the lower rate. Using the Colby formula and Student-Newman-Keuls multiple range test, synergy was seen at the low rate of mesotrione and the low rate of s-metolachlor when a combination of mesotrione and s-metolachlor was used to control white clover.

25

Although the invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments and examples thereof, the scope of the present invention is not limited only to those described embodiments.

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CLAIMS:

1. A method for controlling or inhibiting the growth of large crabgrass or white clover, comprising applying to the locus of the large crabgrass or white clover, a herbicidally effective amount of a composition comprising a mixture of mesotrione and s-metolachlor.
- 5 2. The method of claim 1, wherein mesotrione is in a chelated form.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the copper chelate of mesotrione is used.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the weight ratio of mesotrione to s-metolachlor is between 1:100 and 1:1.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the weight ratio of mesotrione to
10 s-metolachlor is between 1:85 and 1:10.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of mesotrione to s-metolachlor is between 1:10 and 1:20.
7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the large crabgrass or white clover is present in turf grass.
- 15 8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the composition is applied (i) pre-emergence or (ii) post-emergence.
9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the combined amount of mesotrione and s-metolachlor applied to the locus of the large crabgrass or white clover is between 0.005 kg/ha and 5 kg/ha.
- 20 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the combined amount of mesotrione and s-metolachlor applied to the locus of the large crabgrass or white clover is between 0.1 kg/ha and 3 kg/ha.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the combined amount of mesotrione and s-metolachlor applied to the locus of the large crabgrass or white clover is between 0.5 kg/ha and 1.2 kg/ha.
12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the mixture is impregnated
5 in or coated on a fertiliser granule.
13. Use of a herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of a mixture of mesotrione and s-metolachlor to control or inhibit the growth of large crabgrass or white clover.