Flaming

for Weed Management on Small Farms

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Flaming

Basic principles

• Most effective on broadleaf weeds.

• Grasses more resistant.

• Can be done before and after crop emergence.

• Tolerance of crops to flaming varies with species and size.
Flaming Rates

- Recommended rate = 18-27 pounds propane per acre.
- 1 gallon liquid propane = 4 pounds.
- 5-7 gallons of liquid propane per acre.
Flaming
Basic principles

• High temperatures burst cells (not burn plants).

• Weeds should be small (< 3”).

• Weeds should be well-watered, but with dry leaf surface.

• Flaming at night increases efficacy
LP cylinder (20-pound)

4 burners in metal housing

Solid rubber tire
Watch out!
Stale seed bed technique

• This technique is used to exhaust the active seed bank in the first several inches of soil.

• The area is tilled, fertilized and irrigated to promote weed germination.

• Flame newly emerged weeds to kill them.

• A second flush of seeds may be germinated and killed.

• Seeds or transplants are placed in the field with minimal or no tillage to avoid promoting new germination.
Resources

STEEL IN THE FIELD (book)

FLAMING Website
http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/flameweedsveg.html

Airgas/Gaspro
Airgas Gaspro 2305 Kamehameha Hwy., Honolulu, HI 96819, (808) 842-2222.

Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, P.O. Box 2209, 125 Clydesdale Court, Grass Valley, CA 95945, (530) 272-4769.
http://www.groworganic.com

Flame Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 577, LaCrosse, Kansas 67548, 1-888-388-6724, http://www.flameengineering.com