


# Weed management in cowpea

Broadleaf: *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Commelina benghalensis* Grasses: *Andropogon tectorum*, *Rottboellia exaltata*, *Imperata cylindrica* Sedges: *Cyperus difformis*, *C. spachelatus*

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<p><i>Imperata cylindrica</i> seed head</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sort planting materials (crop seeds) to remove weed seeds</li> <li>Remove weeds at an early stage of growth (do not wait for weeds to mature and develop flowers and seeds). Mature weeds with flowers and seeds have the potential to add more seeds to weed seed bank</li> <li>Plough deep and harrow to bury weeds in the soil</li> <li>Carefully handpick/cut rhizomes of lang-lang grass (<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>) and burn them</li> <li>Control movement of animals (e.g. goats, sheep, cow, etc.) to prevent dispersal of weed seeds</li> <li>Water management in developed plots/swamp. Weeds get rot when submerged under water. This should be done before planting</li> <li>Puddling of weeds in swamps before planting has the potential to suppress weeds and also bury them into the soil. This is also a good source of organic matter.</li> <li>Always clean tools after operation (e.g. hoes, shovel or spade, tractor, power tiller, etc.) to prevent weed dispersal</li> <li>Plant and soil materials imported in the country must be examined / inspected for exotic/invasive weeds.</li> <li>Clean drainages or waterways to remove debris (among the debris could have weed seeds)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Always visit field to assess weed species composition and density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mulch plots with botanical leaf extracts (siam weed, pawpaw or neem) or plastic to suppress or smother weeds</li> <li>Remove weeds using hand or hoe in between crop stands and rows (weed twice at 3 and 6 weeks after planting)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atrazine (70 ml/ gallon of cold and clean water)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO class III (slightly hazardous); Re-entry period: 2 weeks; Pre-harvest interval: 2 weeks; Apply prior to planting.; Apply early in the morning or late in the evening; Do not apply when it is raining or windy; Maximum number of applications: Apply only once initially or twice if weeds were not adequately controlled; Use protective gears to avoid being poisoned; Avoid using dirty or contaminated water for preparation of solution</li> </ul>



## Sierra Leone

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AUTHOR(S): Sheku Max Kanteh (Njala University), Patrick Ndoleh, Gershon J.S. Dimoh, Samuel J. Luseni and Foday M. Koroma (MAFFS), Njala University, Tel: +23276247335 email: shekukanteh@yahoo.com, sheku.kanteh5109@gmail.com, IMO Shamie (MAFFS)

EDITED BY: Plantwise