Common herbicides in oil palm

Glyphosate

The most well-known trade name of glyphosate is ‘Roundup’. Glyphosate can be used to kill a wide range of weeds. It is a ‘systemic herbicide’ so it is taken up through the leaves of the weeds and transported through the plant (see Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.). Glyphosate becomes inactive in the soil, so it is not taken up through the roots. It is rain fast within 1–4 hours after spraying.

Glyphosate should be handled with care:
- It is slightly toxic to humans and animals
- It is harmful for the eyes

Always wear proper protective clothing including safety glasses when mixing and spraying glyphosate, and make sure all body parts apart from the head are fully covered.

Glyphosate will not damage the palms unless sprayed directly onto the leaves or used carelessly and in excessive quantities.

![Glyphosate of a local Indonesian brand](image)

Gramoxone

The active ingredient of gramoxone is paraquat. Paraquat can be used to kill many different types of weeds, including grasses. It is a ‘contact herbicide’: it works through direct contact with the leaves of the weeds and is not taken up into the plant. Paraquat becomes inactive in the soil. It is rain fast within half an hour after spraying.

Paraquat should be handled with great care:
- It is highly toxic to humans and animals
- Undiluted paraquat is deadly when swallowed
- It is toxic when inhaled
- It is harmful for the eyes
- It can also irritate the skin
When mixing and spraying paraquat use full protective clothing including face mask, safety glasses and rubber gloves, and make sure that all body parts apart from the head are fully covered. Undiluted paraquat should be handled with extra care.

Paraquat will not damage the palms unless sprayed directly onto the leaves or used carelessly or in too large quantities

For the control of woody weeds: Garlon, Release, or similar [5, 6]

The active ingredient of these herbicides is triclopyr [6]. The most commonly used brand in oil palm plantations is ‘Garlon’ (see Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.). Herbicides with triclopyr kill woody weeds and most other weeds, but not grasses such as <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (alang-alang). Triclopyr is a ‘systemic herbicide’: it is taken up through the leaves or through wounds in the bark. It becomes inactive in the soil and it is rainfast within 2–4 hours after spraying.

Herbicides with triclopyr should be handled with care:
- Triclopyr is slightly toxic to humans and animals
- It is harmful for the eyes
- It can irritate the skin
- It is highly toxic to fish and should never be sprayed in or next to waterways

When mixing and spraying triclopyr always wear proper protective clothing. Make sure all body parts apart from the head are fully covered.

Triclopyr is expensive, so use it only when necessary, and with care. Triclopyr will not damage the palms unless it is sprayed directly onto the leaves or used carelessly or in excessive quantities

Garlon