



Wild World of Weeds Workshop

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Research Update, 1/20/2026

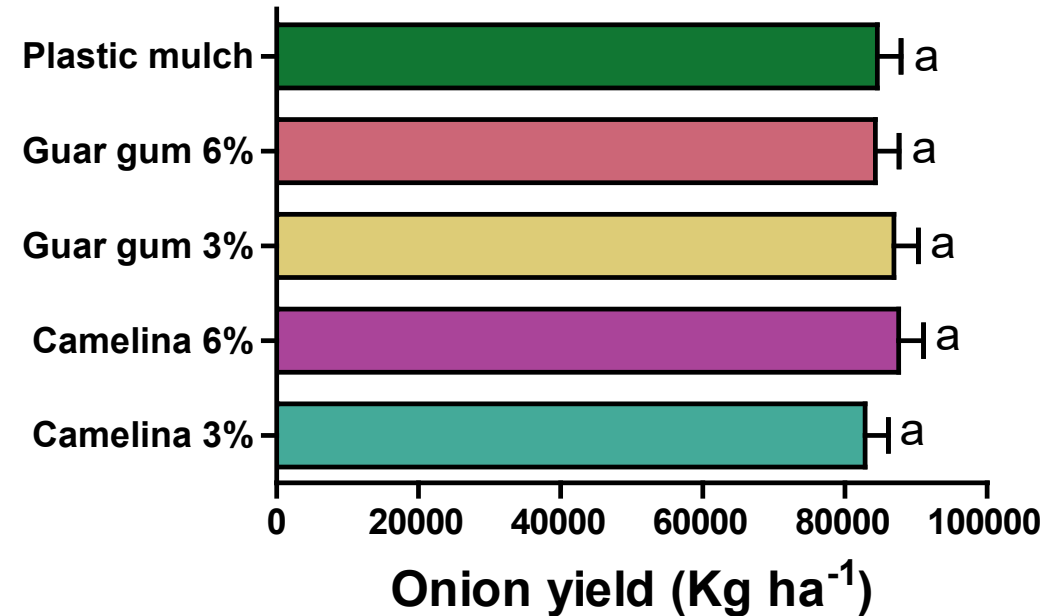
2025: A year of challenges



- **Hydromulch research continued**
 - **Evaluated onion growth in plots with two years of HM additions**
 - **Started new trial evaluating HM+burlap base in gooseberry**
- **Field studies evaluated herbicide injury and weed control in Lewis flax (perennial flax)**

Onion following hydromulch treatments

Planted after two years mulch addition to soil



Hydromulch + Burlap in Gooseberry



- Bareroot gooseberry plants planted early May
- Weed mat (L) and burlap (R) installed
- Then hydromulches sprayed on top of burlap
- HM treatments:
 - Profile cellulose HM + 3% Profile tackifier
 - Profile cellulose HM + 3% guar gum tackifier
 - Profile cellulose HM + 6% guar gum tackifier
 - Shredded paper HM + 6% guar gum
 - Plastic woven landscape mat

Day of application, 5/9/2026

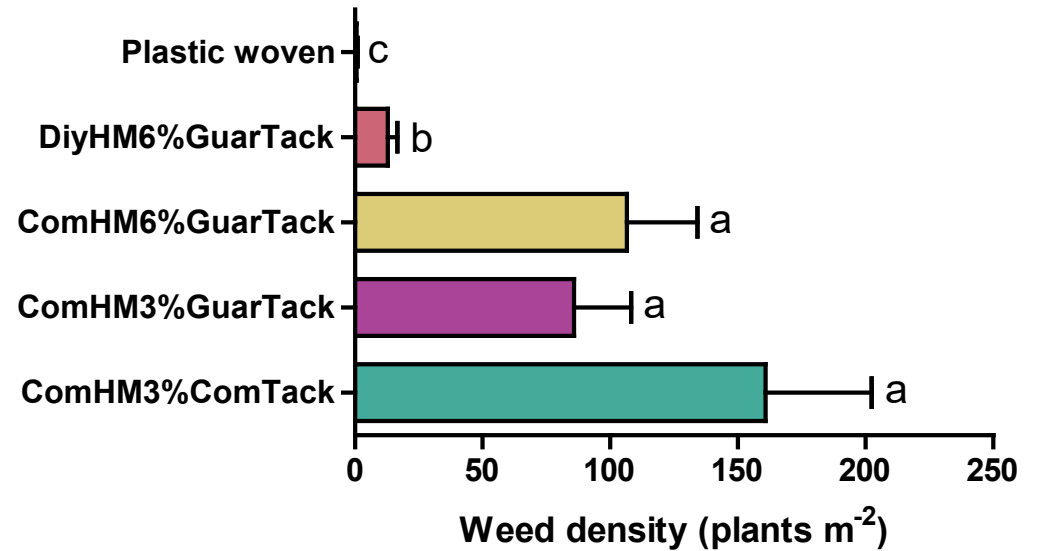


June 17, 2025



Results – Weed density

July 31 (left) and October 9 (right)





Future Directions?

- **Funded OREI project continues until 2026. Application for additional funding is pending**
- **2026: Continue gooseberry trial**
- **Measurements to quantify soil impacts from HM incorporation will continue**
- **Economic analyses to compare costs**
- **Industry (e.g., Naturipe Farms, Profile) have expressed interest – need to work on scaling up and testing under commercial production**
- **HM formulation and application still need more refinement and development**

Lewis perennial flax herbicide trial

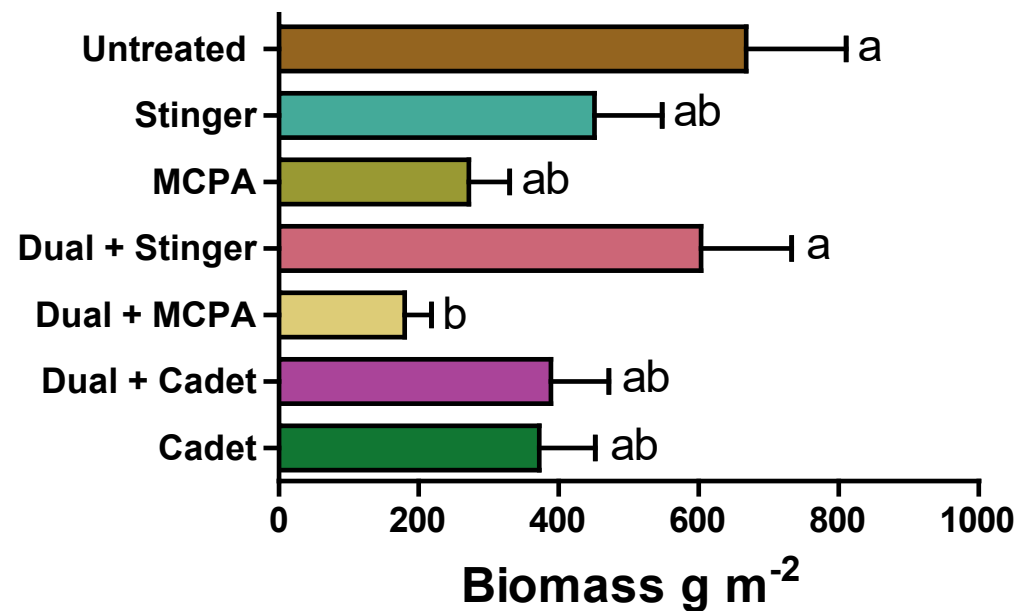
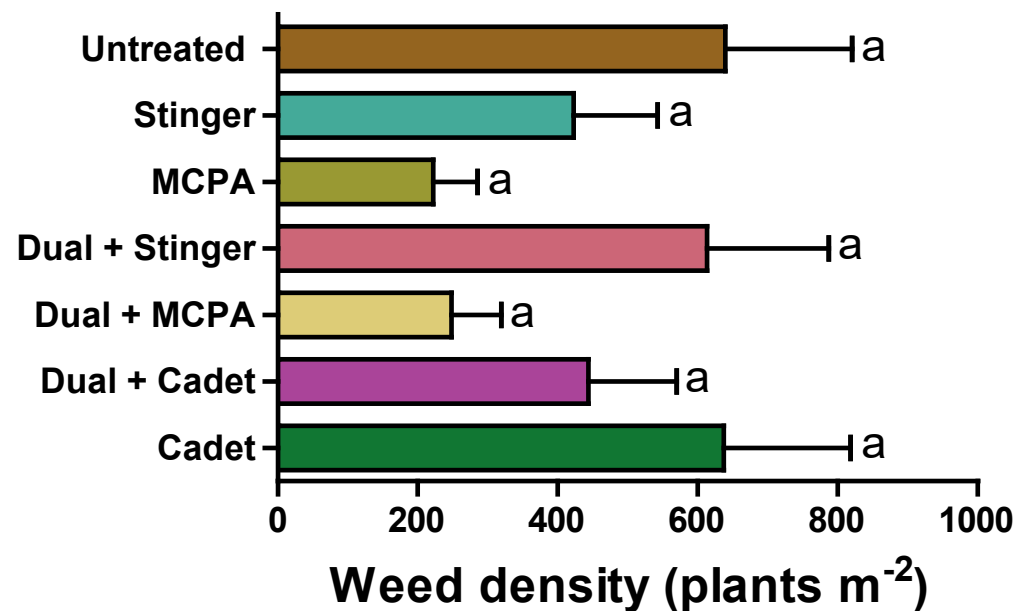
Goal: Evaluate herbicide options



**All herbicide treatments also included
Accent for improved grass control**

- **Flax planted in March 2025**
- **Treatments:**
 - **Untreated check**
 - **Handweeded check**
 - **Dual II Magnum + Stinger HL**
 - **Dual II Magnum + MCPA Ester**
 - **Dual II Magnum + Cadet**
 - **Stinger HL**
 - **MCPA Ester**
 - **Cadet**

Weed density (left) and biomass (right)




Conclusions, future directions



- Dual II Magnum was safe for flax, but wasn't effective for the weeds that were present
- All POST herbicides also caused little flax injury, but MCPA ester worked best for the weeds that were present in this field
- 2026 – Will test options for second year weed control and evaluate yield

YouTube video about project: More info here!

A YouTube video player showing a field with rows of hydromulches. The mulches are light-colored, rectangular strips laid out in rows across a dark, tilled field. A wooden handle of a tool is visible in the foreground on the left. The video player interface at the bottom shows a play button, a progress bar at 0:00 / 11:02, and various control icons.

Exploring Hydromulches for Organic Horticultural Production

