Claims

1. A method for controlling the growth of vegetation, comprising applying to the foliage of the vegetation at ambient temperature, without any pre-heating, a composition comprising:

-an aqueous solution of at least one sugar component selected from plant-based natural sugar, sugar substitute and sugar alcohol; and

- a penetrant to promote the osmotic action of the solution, wherein said penetrant comprises a penetrating and translocating wetting agent and adjuvant, comprising an emulsifiable concentrate formulation containing 50.0% w/w soybean phospholipid, 25.0% w/w alkoxylated alcohols and 25.0% w/w oil comprising soybean fatty acid esters,

- thereby to induce osmosis on cells of the foliage and destroy those cells.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one plant-based natural sugar is selected from sucrose, glucose, fructose, galactose, maltose, arabimose, lactose, inositol, mannose, ribose, trehalose, and xylose.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said at least one sugar substitute is selected from saccharin, sodium saccharin, stevia rebaudiana, siraitia grosvenori, aspartame, acesulfame potassium, sucralose, neotame, and advantame.
4. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein said at least one sugar alcohol is selected from sorbitol, xylitol, lactitol, mannitol, erythritol, and maltitol.
5. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the solution comprises two or more sugar components selected from natural sugar, sugar substitute and sugar alcohol.
6. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the sugar component comprises sodium saccharin, and optionally, a natural sugar.
7. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the solution has a sugar component concentration in the range of from 50 to 133 g/l.
8. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the solution has a sugar concentration of about 100g/l.
9. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises a bactericide.

10. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the penetrant further comprises a surfactant.

11. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the penetrant further comprises alkyl polyglucoside (APG) and/or Yucca extract.

12. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the penetrant is present in the solution in an amount in the range of from 0.15% to 0.5% by volume, relative to the volume of water.

13. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the penetrant is present in the solution in an amount of 0.375% by volume, relative to the volume of water.

14. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the composition comprises one more additional components selected from citric acid, a fatty acid, and an essential oil.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the essential oil is one or more selected from pine oil, manuka oil and tea tree oil.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15 wherein the additional component is or comprises a fatty acid.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fatty acid is one or more selected from pelargonic acid, acetic acid and caprylic acid.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the fatty acid is or comprises pelargonic acid.

19. A method as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18, wherein the composition comprises substantially 50% sugar solution and substantially 50% fatty acid.

20. A method as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18, wherein the fatty acid is present in the composition in an amount of substantially 9% by volume relative to the volume of water.

21. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, in which the composition is applied by spraying.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21, in which the composition is sprayed at a rate sufficient to wet the majority of the foliage of the plant being treated.

23. The use of the composition comprising a solution of at least one sugar component in a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 22.

24. The use as claimed in claim 23 of a composition in a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 22, said composition further comprising a fatty acid.