



Herbicide Bioassay Solution Preparation

Brenda Johnson

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Bioassay Definition

- Appraisal of the biological activity of a substance (herbicide) by testing its effect on an organism (seed) and comparing the result to some agreed upon standard (control/check sample)

So how is it actually conducted?

- Plant seeds in presence of herbicide OR spray seedlings that have grown and assess how each seedling looks compared to the control

Concentration of herbicide is determined during method validation

Depends on type of herbicide bioassay

- **Spray method is typically at or close to field rate of application**
- **Substrate imbibition (rolled-towel) is typically more dilute than field rate**

Herbicide concentration for testing trait purity of seeds is typically calculated in parts per million (**ppm**)

- 1ppm is equal to 0.0001%
- Just like a percent, ppm is unitless
- Examples:

1 minute in 20,000 years

1¢ in \$10,000

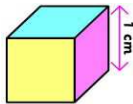
1 inch in 16 miles

Understanding ppm

1ppm is also equal to 1mg/L, important when calculating herbicide concentrations

- ppm=mg/L

- g=mL=cm³ (water)



$$\frac{1\text{mg}}{1\text{L}}$$

Some math



=

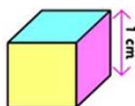
$$\frac{\text{g}}{\text{mL}}$$

Understanding ppm

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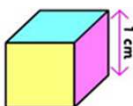
$$\frac{\cancel{1\text{mg}}}{1\text{L}} \times \frac{1\text{g}}{\cancel{1000\text{mg}}} = \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mL}}$$

Understanding ppm

1ppm is also equal to 1mg/L, important when calculating herbicide concentrations

- ppm=mg/L

- g=mL=cm³ (water)

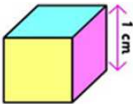


$$\frac{\cancel{1\text{mg}}}{\cancel{1\text{L}}} \times \frac{1\text{g}}{\cancel{1000\text{mg}}} \times \frac{\cancel{1\text{L}}}{1000\text{mL}} = \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mL}}$$

Understanding ppm

1ppm is also equal to 1mg/L, important when calculating herbicide concentrations

- ppm=mg/L

- g=mL=cm³ (water) 

$$\frac{\cancel{1\text{mg}}}{\cancel{1\text{L}}} \times \frac{1\text{g}}{\cancel{1000\text{mg}}} \times \frac{\cancel{1\text{L}}}{1000\text{mL}} = \frac{1\text{g}}{1,000,000\text{mL}}$$

- That's 1ppm!

Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

Gather **appropriate** information from product label

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Glufosinate-ammonium* 24.5%**

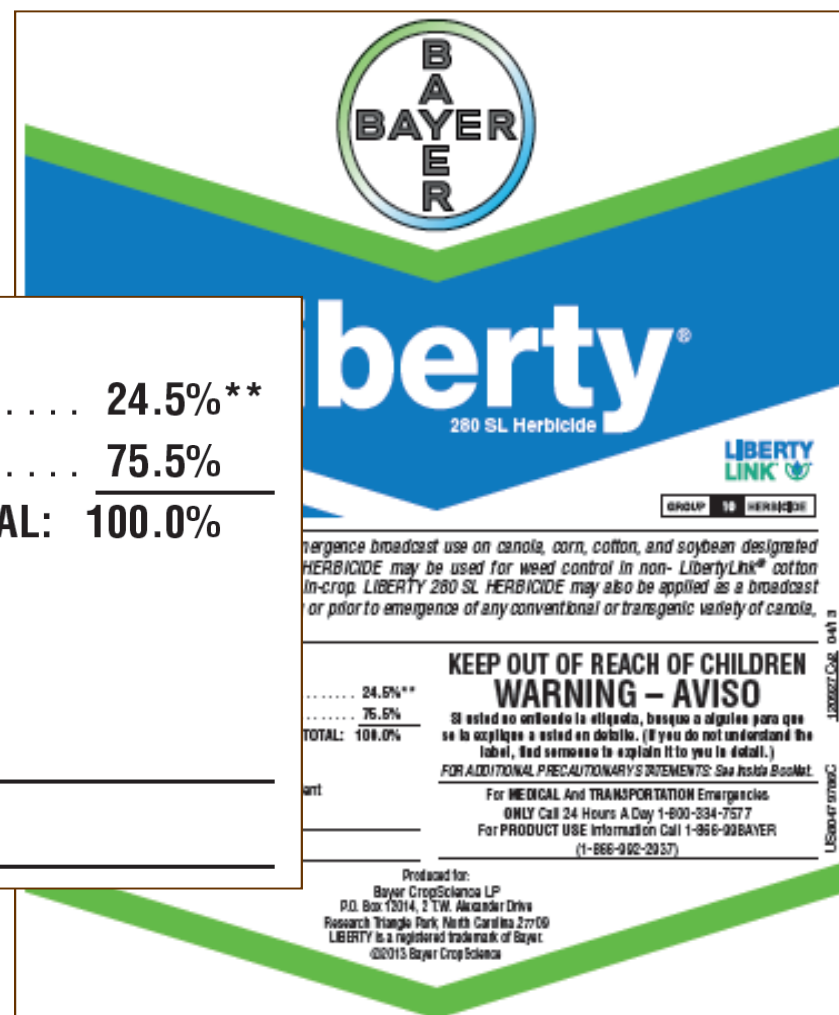
OTHER INGREDIENTS: 75.5%

TOTAL: 100.0%

*CAS Number 77182-82-2

**Equivalent to 2.34 pounds of active ingredient per U.S. gallon.

EPA Reg. No. 264-829



Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

Percent Glufosinate-ammonium...24.5%

- By weight? By volume?
- What is the “active ingredient”?

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Glufosinate-ammonium* ~~24.5%**~~

OTHER INGREDIENTS: 75.5%

TOTAL: 100.0%

*CAS Number 77182-82-2

**Equivalent to 2.34 pounds of active ingredient
per U.S. gallon.

EPA Reg. No. 264-829

Not enough
information!

Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

****2.34 pounds of ai per gallon**

- **Convert from lb/gal to ppm (or g/L to ppm, any mass/volume)**

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Glufosinate-ammonium* **24.5%****

OTHER INGREDIENTS: **75.5%**

TOTAL: 100.0%

*CAS Number 77182-82-2

**Equivalent to 2.34 pounds of active ingredient
per U.S. gallon.



EPA Reg. No. 264-829

Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

****2.34 pounds of ai per gallon**

- **Convert from lb/gal to ppm (or g/L to ppm, any mass/volume)**

$$\frac{2.34\cancel{\text{lb}}}{1\cancel{\text{gal}}} \times \frac{454\cancel{\text{g}}}{1\cancel{\text{lb}}} \times \frac{1000\cancel{\text{mg}}}{1\cancel{\text{g}}} \times \frac{1\cancel{\text{gal}}}{3.785\text{L}} = 280676\frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}$$

- **Since there are only 3 digits in the given number we are converting (2.34), round to 281000mg/L or 281000ppm**

Creating Working Solution From Stock

- $C1 \times V1 = C2 \times V2$

where

C1=concentration (or dilution) of stock

V1=volume of stock to pipet

C2=concentration of working solution

V2=final total volume (volume of source extract and diluent)

Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

Example: Create a 4 Liters of 1000ppm working solution from the 281000ppm stock.

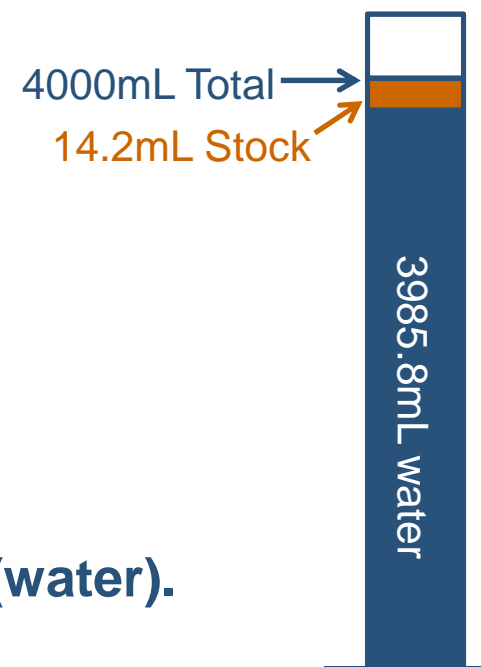
$$C_1 \times V_1 = C_2 \times V_2$$

$$281000\text{ppm} \times V_1 = 1000\text{ppm} \times 4\text{L}$$

$$V_1 = \frac{1000\text{ppm} \times 4\text{L}}{281000\text{ppm}}$$

$$V_1 = 0.0142\text{L} = 14.2\text{mL}$$

Add **14.2mL** of Liberty to **3985.8mL** of diluent (water).



Another Example

“Okay, okay, okay... everyone just calm down and we’ll try this thing one more time.”

The Far Side by Gary Larson



Calculate the final concentration of a working solution of Roundup WeatherMax produced by adding 2.0mL of stock solution to 1L.

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

*Glyphosate, N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine,
in the form of its potassium salt 48.8%

OTHER INGREDIENTS: 51.2%
100.0%

*Contains 660 grams per liter or 5.5 pounds per U.S. gallon of the active ingredient glyphosate, in the form of its potassium salt. Equivalent to 540 grams per liter or 4.5 pounds per U.S. gallon of the acid, glyphosate.

This product is protected by U.S. Patent No's. 5,668,085, RE 37,866 and 6,365,551. Other Patents Pending. No license granted under any non-U.S. patent(s).

Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

$C_1 = ?$ (Need to calculate this from the label)

$V_1 = 2.0\text{mL}$

$C_2 = ?$ (This is the answer)

$V_2 = 1\text{L} + 2\text{mL} = 1002\text{mL}$

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

*Glyphosate, N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine,
in the form of its potassium salt 48.8%

OTHER INGREDIENTS: 51.2%
100.0%

*Contains 660 grams per liter or 5.5 pounds per U.S. gallon of the active ingredient glyphosate, in the form of its potassium salt. Equivalent to 540 grams per liter or 4.5 pounds per U.S. gallon of the acid, glyphosate.

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Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

C1 = ? ppm

*540 grams of ai per Liter

- Convert from g/L to mg/L (aka ppm)

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

*Glyphosate, N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine,
in the form of its potassium salt ~~48.8%~~

OTHER INGREDIENTS: 51.2%
100.0%

*Contains ~~660 grams per liter or 5.5 pounds per U.S. gallon~~ of the active ingredient
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Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

C1 = ? ppm

*540 grams of ai per Liter

- Convert from g/L to mg/L (aka ppm)

$$\frac{540\cancel{\text{g}}}{1\text{L}} \times \frac{1000\cancel{\text{mg}}}{1\cancel{\text{g}}} = 540,000 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}} = 540,000\text{ppm}$$

- C1=540,000ppm

Now use C1 x V1 = C2 x V2

Calculating Concentration (ppm)



BioDiagnostics

$$C_1 = 540,000$$

$$V_1 = 2.0\text{mL}$$

$$C_2 = ? \text{ (This is the answer)}$$

$$V_2 = 1\text{L} + 2.0\text{mL} = 1002\text{mL}$$

$$C_1 \times V_1 = C_2 \times V_2$$

$$540,000\text{ppm} \times 2.0\text{mL} = C_2 \times 1002\text{mL}$$

$$C_2 = \frac{540,000\text{ppm} \times 2.0\text{mL}}{1002\text{mL}} = 1077.8443\text{...ppm}$$

$$C_2 = 1080\text{ppm when rounded}$$

Important notes

- Proper measuring of reagents is important, i.e. selecting the most appropriate measurement device (pipet, graduated cylinder)
- Adequate mixing is essential to ensure even distribution of herbicide throughout the solution

Questions?

