

EFFECT OF DIURON AND OXYFLUOREN ON
SOME PROPERTIES OF SURFACE LAYER OF
TEA SOILS.

BY

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted at the Tea Research Institute of Talawckelle 1372 M (Amsl) during the period November 1985 - March 1986 to test the residual effects if any, of two pre-emergent herbicides, Diuron and Oxyfluorfen and mulching on some properties on surface layer of tea soils. Diuron was used at the rate of 1.12 kg/ha, Oxyfluorfen was used at the rate of 1.02 Litres/ha. in 560 litres of water per hectare and mulching was done with Guatemala grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) at a level of 15 Tons/ha. on a fresh weight basis. Determination of total nitrogen, ammonium nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen at weekly intervals for 2 months did not show any significant effect of herbicide or mulch on nitrogen transformations in the soil. It therefore appears that Diuron and Oxyfluorfen used at recommended rates do not affect physical characteristics or bacterial activities in the treated soil suggesting that use of these chemicals for weed control in tea would not have any adverse effects.

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