

Foliar Application of Glyphosate Affects Molecular Mechanisms in Underground Adventitious Buds of Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) and Alters Their Vegetative Growth Patterns

Münevver Dođramacı, James V. Anderson, Wun S. Chao, and Michael E. Foley*

Long-term control of leafy spurge with glyphosate requires multiple applications because the plant reproduces vegetatively from abundant underground adventitious buds, referred to as crown and root buds. Determining the molecular mechanisms involved in controlling vegetative reproduction in leafy spurge following foliar glyphosate treatment could identify limiting factors or new targets for manipulation of plant growth and development in invasive perennial species. Thus, we treated leafy spurge plants with 0 or 2.24 kg ai ha⁻¹ glyphosate to determine its impact on selected molecular processes in crown buds derived from intact plants and plants decapitated at the soil surface 7 d after glyphosate treatment. New shoot growth from crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated plants was significantly reduced compared with controls after growth-inducing decapitation, and had a stunted or bushy phenotype. Quantification of a selected set of transcripts involved in hormone biosynthesis and signaling pathways indicated that glyphosate had the most significant impact on abundance of *ENT-COPALYL DIPHOSPHATE SYNTHETASE 1*, which is involved in a committed step for gibberellin biosynthesis, and auxin transporters including *PINs*, *PIN-LIKES*, and *ABC TRANSPORTERS*. Foliar glyphosate treatment also reduced the abundance of transcripts involved in cell cycle processes, which would be consistent with altered growth patterns observed in this study. Overall, these results suggest that interplay among phytohormones such as auxin, ethylene, and gibberellins affect vegetative growth patterns from crown buds of leafy spurge in response to foliar glyphosate treatment.

Nomenclature: Glyphosate; leafy spurge, *Euphorbia esula* L.

Key words: Auxin transporters, endoplasmic reticulum, hormones, stunted and bushy phenotype, transcript abundance.

Leafy spurge is an invasive perennial weed infesting rangelands, right-of-ways, and noncultivated areas in the Great Plains of the United States and Canada. Leafy spurge reproduces vegetatively from an abundance of underground adventitious buds (UABs), commonly referred to as crown and root buds, which exhibit well-defined phases of seasonal dormancy (Anderson et al. 2005). Integrated biological, chemical, cultural, and mechanical control measures have reduced infestations of leafy spurge in some areas, although these measures sometimes are impractical for economic reasons or

lack efficacy in certain environments. For example, in sandy soil, leafy spurge is often difficult to manage with biological control agents such as flea beetles (*Aphthona* spp.) (Lym and Nelson 2002). Thus, leafy spurge control generally entails a long-term management program requiring consistent follow-up. Some integrated leafy spurge management approaches incorporate the use of herbicides such as glyphosate for long-term control (Lym and Messersmith 2013).

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide used worldwide in agricultural systems. It translocates in a source-to-sink manner to meristematic tissues, including organs capable of vegetative reproduction in perennial plants (Shaner 2009). Glyphosate inhibits 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS), which is a nuclear-encoded and chloroplast-localized enzyme (Della-Cioppa et al. 1986) of the shikimate biosynthetic pathway; inhibition of EPSPS results in the accumulation of shikimate (Amrhein et al. 1980; Steinrucken and Amrhein 1980). More specifically, glyphosate inhibits EPSPS-catalyzed conversion of shikimate-3-phosphate (S3P) to EPSP by forming an EPSPS–S3P–glyphosate

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complex that competes for phosphoenolpyruvate binding (Boocock and Coggins 1983; Franz et al. 1997; Gruys et al. 1992). These are critical steps for the production of chorismate, which is a precursor of aromatic amino acids (phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan), auxin, and many other secondary products essential for plant growth and development. The lack of downstream aromatic amino acids required for protein synthesis and other metabolic processes is generally considered the primary effect leading to plant death (Duke and Powles 2008); however, it has also been suggested that inhibition of EPSPS likely causes shikimate to accumulate faster than it can be consumed in other metabolic pathways, leading to lethality (Herrmann and Weaver 1999).

Leafy spurge and several other laticiferous perennial weeds such as hemp dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum* L.) (Wyrill and Burnside 1976) are somewhat tolerant to glyphosate. Glyphosate (0.8 kg ha^{-1}) can provide ~80–90% leafy spurge control 12 mo after the first treatment, but follow-up applications are required for long-term control (Lym 2000; Lym and Messersmith 2013). Maxwell et al. (1987) reported that glyphosate was readily absorbed and glyphosate or its metabolites translocate and accumulate in roots and UABs of leafy spurge plants when applied at all phenological stages (i.e., prebloom, full bloom, and senescence), and high concentrations ($\sim 2\text{--}6 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$) induced uncontrolled growth patterns from UABs in subsequent years. Because UABs are generally in a paradormant state during the active growing season and remain relatively quiescent unless they are released from paradormancy by sectioning of roots or decapitation of the aerial portion of the plant (Foley et al. 2009; Raju et al. 1964), the induction of uncontrolled growth of UABs in response to glyphosate could provide new insights on molecular mechanisms affecting vegetative reproduction.

So far, the impact of glyphosate treatment on global gene expression has mainly focused on leaf tissues of annuals such as soybean (*Glycine max* L.) (Zhu et al. 2008) and horseweed [*Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronq.] (Peng et al. 2010; Yuan et al. 2010), or perennials such as turf grasses (*Festuca* spp.) (Cebeci and Budak 2009). In the case of turf grasses, Cebeci and Budak (2009) reported that glyphosate treatment led to decreased abundance of transcripts involved in the detoxification of reactive oxygen species, and major changes in transcript abundance were observed in over 20 functional categories, including photosynthesis, metabolism, protein synthesis and fate, transport and mechanisms, and

energy. Additionally, ABC transporters, cytochrome P450 mono-oxygenases, and glycosyltransferases have been shown to be overexpressed in response to glyphosate treatment, and these gene families have been proposed to play some role in glyphosate resistance in horseweed (Peng et al. 2010), tall waterhemp [*Amaranthus tuberculatus* (Moq.) Sauer] (Riggins et al. 2010), and several other weeds (reviewed by Yuan et al. 2007).

In this study, the effects of foliar glyphosate treatment on molecular mechanisms and vegetative growth responses from crown buds of leafy spurge plants are reported. The objectives of this study are to evaluate vegetative growth from crown buds of leafy spurge plants treated with sublethal concentrations of foliar-applied glyphosate, and to monitor changes in transcript abundance in these crown buds. Selection of transcripts used in this study is based on (1) previously reported modes of glyphosate action, (2) its impact on molecular mechanisms or pathways involved in phytohormone biosynthesis and signaling, and (3) transcripts known to be involved in regulating dormancy in leafy spurge (Doğramacı et al. 2010, 2011, 2013). The outcomes from this discovery-driven approach will help to identify molecular mechanisms and pathways affected by glyphosate, or its impact on the regulation of bud dormancy, which should lead to testable hypothesis-driven studies. Identifying insights into regulatory networks that could be novel targets for reducing the bud bank of invasive perennial weeds or make them more susceptible to alternative control techniques will contribute to next-generation approaches for weed management.

Materials and Methods

Plant Material, Glyphosate Treatments, and Vegetative Growth. Leafy spurge plants were propagated from a uniform biotype (1984-ND001) in cone-tainers and maintained in a greenhouse as described by Anderson and Davis (2004). In preliminary studies (data not shown) to determine a sublethal dose, 4-mo-old greenhouse-grown leafy spurge plants were treated with 2.24, 4.48, or 6.72 kg ai ha^{-1} rates of glyphosate (Buccanner Plus[®], 480 g ai L^{-1} , Tenkoz, Inc., Alpharetta, GA) plus 0.25% of surfactant (Class Act[®] NG[®] surfactant Agrisolutions—Winfield Solutions, LLC, St. Paul, MN) using a SS8001 nozzle delivering 95 L ha^{-1} solution in a positive airflow hood (DeVries Manufacturing Co., Hollandale, MN). In this study, 2.24 kg ha^{-1} glyphosate rate was chosen for further studies, with 0 kg ha^{-1}

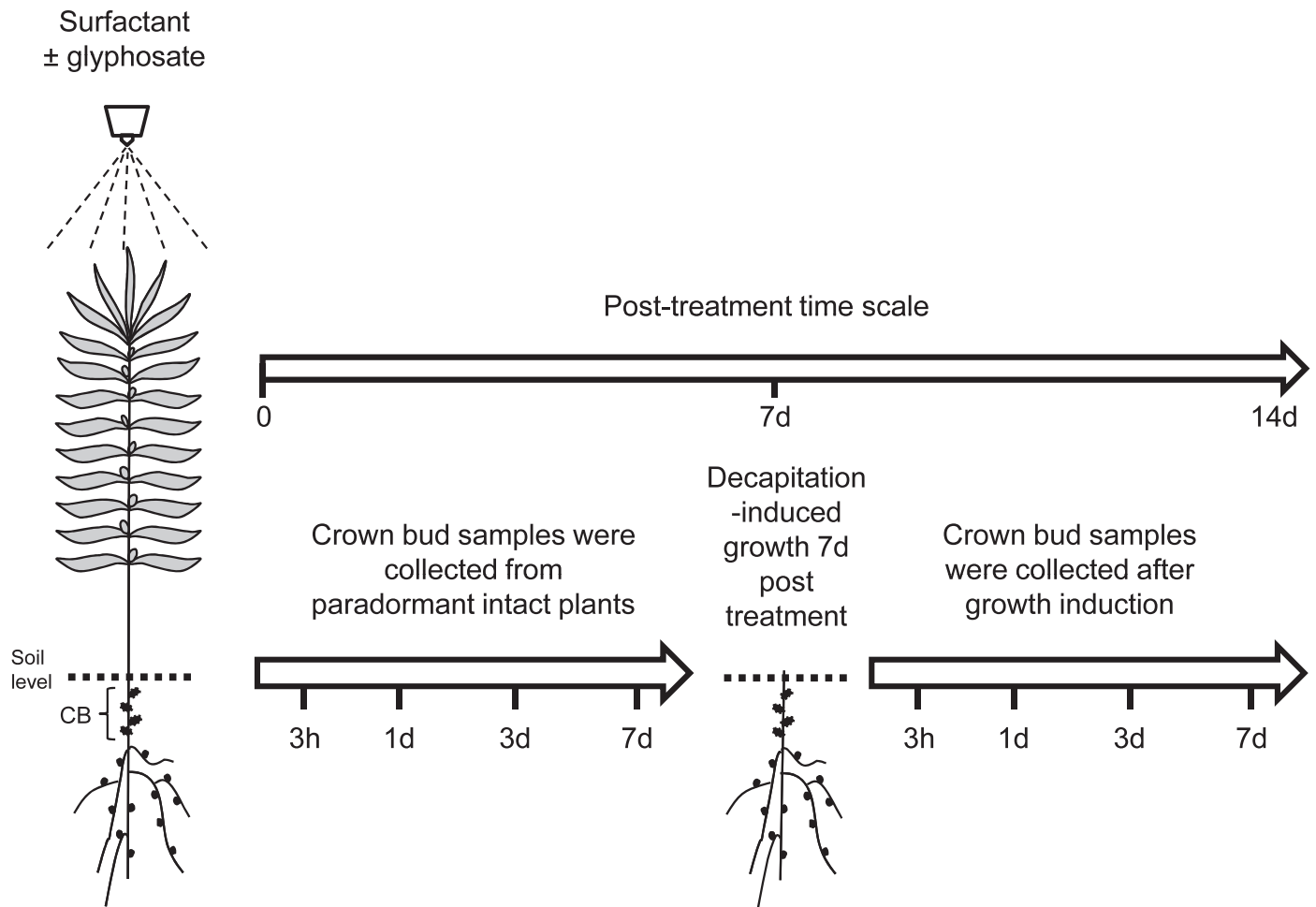


Figure 1. Leafy spurge plants were treated with surfactant \pm 2.24 kg ha⁻¹ glyphosate, and were kept under growth-conductive conditions until crown bud (CB) collection; CB samples were collected over a 14-d timescale from intact or decapitated plants. Paradormant CB were collected from intact plants at 3 h and 1, 3, and 7 d after foliar treatment, whereas growth-induced CB were collected at 3 h and 1, 3, and 7 d after decapitation. These CB were used to quantify changes in transcript abundance; values obtained from glyphosate-treated plants (surfactant + glyphosate) were compared with control plants (surfactant alone) at each time point.

as the control, and both rates included surfactant. Plants were returned to growth-conductive conditions in the greenhouse after glyphosate treatment until time of crown bud collection. Each experiment included four biological replicates containing 86 plants. Six plants from each replicate were decapitated 7 d postglyphosate treatment, and kept in the greenhouse under growth-conductive conditions to determine the vegetative growth rate as previously described by Foley et al. (2009). New vegetative shoot growth (height) was recorded weekly for 6 wk; results were analyzed using the generalized linear mixed model (PROC GLIMMIX) procedure of SAS 9.2, and 95% confidence intervals for treatment-by-week means were generated.

Quantitative Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (qRT-PCR) Analysis. To study changes in gene expression by qRT-PCR, crown buds were

collected and pooled for each time point and stored at -80 C. We examined transcript abundance for \sim 200 genes in two separate sets of crown buds from glyphosate-treated leafy spurge plants (Figure 1). The first set included paradormant crown buds collected from intact plants at 3 h, 1 d, 3 d, and 7 d after the glyphosate treatments (0 and 2.24 kg ha⁻¹). For the second set, glyphosate-treated and control plants were maintained under growth-conductive conditions for 7 d, then aerial tissues were decapitated to induce vegetative growth, and crown buds were collected from the decapitated plants after 3 h, 1 d, 3 d, and 7 d. RNA extraction and complementary (c)DNA synthesis was done as described by Dođramacı et al. (2010). Sequences from a leafy spurge EST database (Anderson et al. 2007) were used for designing primer pairs using the Primer-Select of Lasergene 8 software program (DNASTAR, Inc., Madison, WI). These primer

pairs were used to quantify abundance of transcripts associated with various hormonal pathways (i.e., abscisic acid [ABA], auxin, cytokinin, ethylene, gibberellic acid [GA]), cell cycle processes, and bud dormancy and vegetative growth regulation (see Supplemental Material-1; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1614/WS-D-13-00156.SM1>). Many of these pathways can be viewed at <http://pmn.plantcyc.org/PLANT/class-tree?object=Pathways> (Plant Metabolic Network 2008). In brief, 20 µg of total RNA was treated with DNase2 amplification grade (Invitrogen), and reverse transcribed using Super Script First-Strand Synthesis Kit3 (Invitrogen) in a 80-µl volume according to the manufacturer's instructions. After cDNA synthesis, each reaction was diluted to 2,400 µl total volume and stored at -80 C. For qRT-PCR reactions, 1 µl of total cDNA was added to 10 µl of PCR reaction mixture containing 5 µl of LightCycler® 480 SYBR Green I Master and 0.5 µl of each primer set. Transcript abundance was measured from three technical and four biological replicates using a LightCycler 480 II (Roche). All transcript values were normalized using the reference genes *ARF2*, *PTB*, *SAND*, and *ORE9/MAX2* identified by Chao et al. (2012). QbasePLUS version 2.4 software (Biogazelle, Ghent, Belgium) was used to normalize expression values and to perform statistical analyses. Values from four biological replicates were averaged and data from untreated samples (0 kg ha⁻¹) for each time period were used for baseline expression. Gene abbreviations and descriptions of all putative homologous leafy spurge genes included throughout this report were obtained from an *Arabidopsis* (*Arabidopsis thaliana* L.) website (www.arabidopsis.org) and are presented in SM-1.

Results and Discussion

Effects of Glyphosate on Phenotype and Vegetative Growth. Foliar glyphosate treatment (2.24 kg ha⁻¹) had a sublethal effect on leafy spurge plants. This treatment caused yellowing and desiccation of the apical meristem within 2–3 d, and within 7 d after the treatment the apical meristem was completely desiccated. Although the remaining aerial tissues survived 7 d posttreatment, the surviving leaves eventually died off over a 3–4-wk period (Figure 2). Generally, physiological factors outside the buds maintain paradormancy, as often illustrated by the auxin theory of apical dominance, or by unknown signals from the leaves or stem (Lang et al. 1987). Thus, new vegetative growth from paradormant crown buds of glyphosate-treated

plants did not occur until surviving aerial tissue was decapitated. After foliar glyphosate treatment, crown buds were still viable and decapitation of surviving aerial tissues from glyphosate-treated plants (7 d posttreatment) induced vegetative growth, but the growth of new shoots from crown buds was reduced significantly ($P < 0.05$) compared with the untreated controls (Figures 3 and 4a). Most of the UABs initiated shoot growth (release from paradormancy) simultaneously, but the shoot growth was suspended after reaching ~2–3 cm and only a few extended beyond the soil surface (Figure 4b). The appearance of new shoots was represented by stunted and bushy phenotypes, often with variegated leaves (Figures 4c, d). These phenotypic patterns in vegetative growth from crown buds of glyphosate-treated plants remained similar after several additional decapitations (data not shown). Thus, the initiation of uncontrolled vegetative growth from UABs in response to glyphosate treatment (Figure 4b) is a significant event, in that release of paradormancy under field conditions normally results in only a few crown buds initiating new vegetative growth. Understanding the molecular mechanisms associated with glyphosate-induced bud growth could provide new strategies for reducing the bud bank of invasive perennial weeds or make them more susceptible to alternative control techniques.

Changes in Transcript Abundance of Leafy Spurge Crown Buds after Foliar Glyphosate Treatment. The abundance of ~200 transcripts was monitored for crown buds of glyphosate-treated and untreated leafy spurge plants that were either in a paradormant (from intact plants) or vegetative growth phase (after growth-inducing decapitation). There were no significant changes of transcript abundance in paradormant crown buds of leafy spurge 3 h after foliar glyphosate treatment (SM-1; Tables 1–5). Gottrup et al. (1976) reported that between 0.5 and 1% of ¹⁴C-labeled glyphosate translocated into the root system of leafy spurge within 12 h. Thus, it is not surprising that no significant changes in transcript abundance in paradormant crown buds were observed 3 h after application of glyphosate. However, 1 d after foliar glyphosate treatment significant changes in transcript abundance were observed in paradormant crown buds, and glyphosate had a more prominent effect on transcript abundance 3–7 d posttreatment. Growth-inducing decapitation also resulted in rapid and major changes in transcript abundance in crown buds compared with untreated controls.

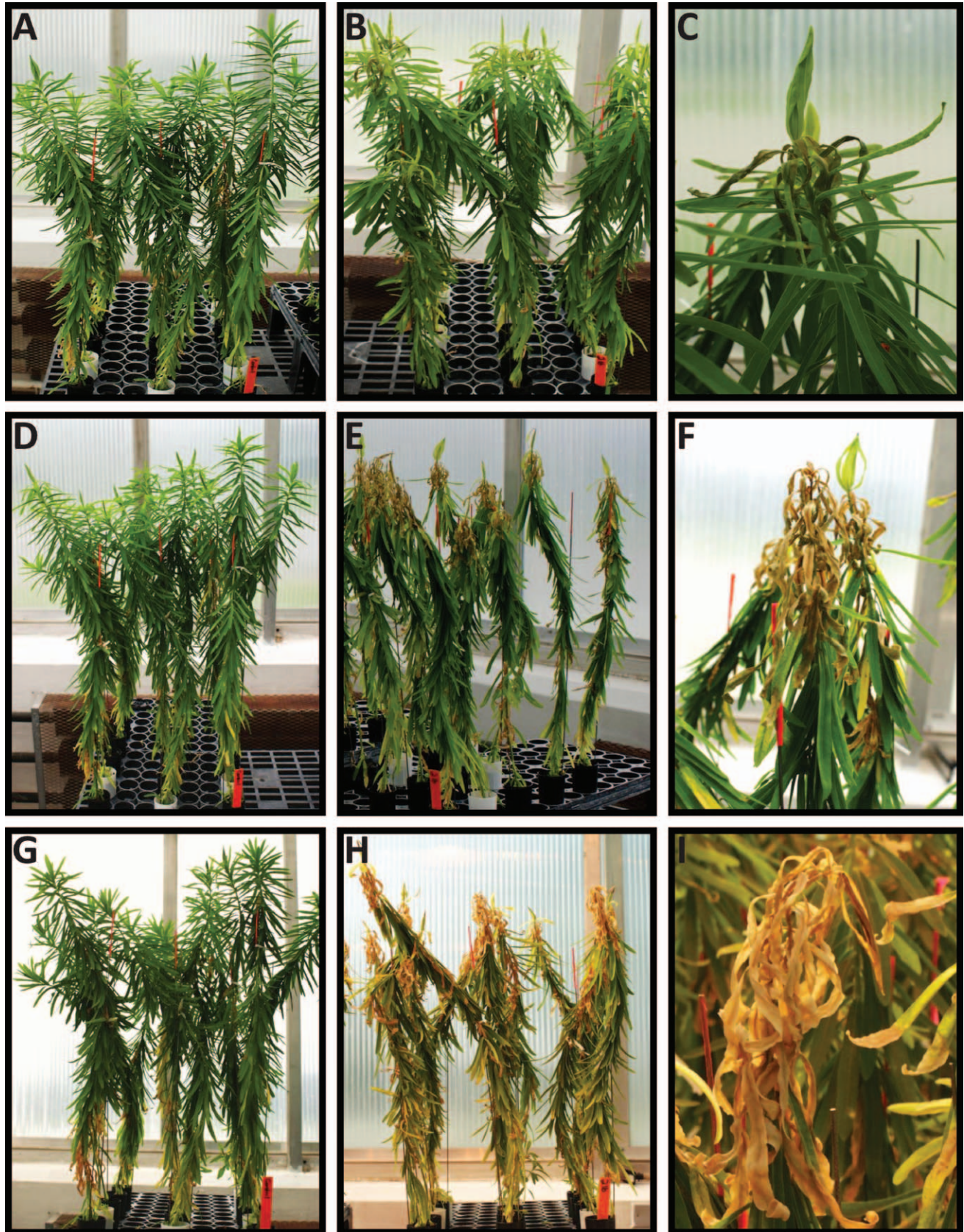


Figure 2. Effect of foliar glyphosate treatment on leafy spurge plants, which were treated with 0 kg ha^{-1} (controls) or 2.24 kg ha^{-1} (treated) of glyphosate. A, D, and G represent control plants 7, 14, and 21 d posttreatment, respectively. B, E, and H represent treated plants 7, 14, and 21 d posttreatment, respectively. C, F, and I, represent close-ups of treated plants 7, 14, and 21 d posttreatment, respectively. (Color for this figure is available in the online version of this paper.)

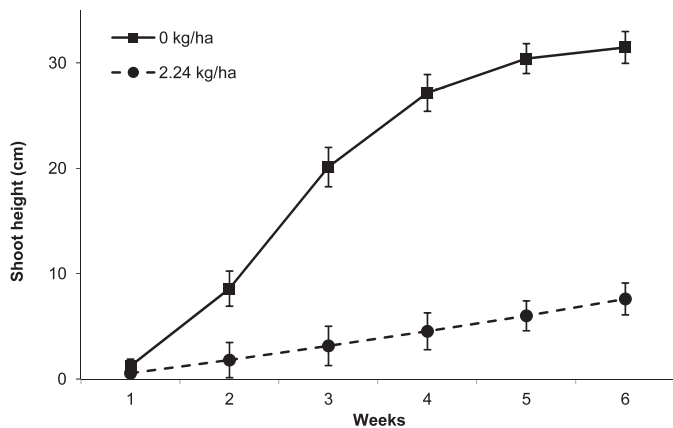


Figure 3. Vegetative growth of shoots from crown buds of leafy spurge after foliar glyphosate treatment and growth-inducing decapitation. Vertical bars indicate 95% confidence limits.

For example, within 3 h postdecapitation numerous transcripts associated with various hormonal pathways and cell processes in crown buds showed significant changes in abundance, and the effect of glyphosate continued to affect transcript abundance in growth-induced crown buds 1–7 d postdecapitation (Tables 1–5; SM-1).

Impact of Glyphosate on the Shikimate Biosynthesis Pathway. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in various stages of the shikimate biosynthetic pathway (Table 1) were observed at 3 d (*EMB1144*, *MEE32*) and 7 d posttreatment (*MEE32*) in paradormant crown buds and 1 d after growth-inducing decapitation (*DHS1*, *EMB1144*). Although changes in abundance of these transcripts were statistically significant, their changes in amplitude were minor (Table 1). Similar to the results observed for homologues of *EPSPS* in leafy spurge (Table 1), expression of *EPSPS* in glyphosate-resistant and -susceptible Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri* S. Wats.) did not change significantly with or without glyphosate treatment (Gaines et al. 2010). These results suggest that glyphosate treatment does not induce drastic changes in abundance of transcripts known to be involved in the shikimate pathway; previous studies have shown similar results in horseweed (Peng et al. 2010) and soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.] (Zhu et al. 2008).

Impact of Glyphosate on ABA Biosynthesis, Signaling, and Response. ABA is responsive to environmental stresses and is involved in many developmental processes; therefore, we monitored abundance of numerous transcripts involved in ABA

biosynthesis, signaling, and response. Only a few transcripts (*NCED3*, *CYP707A1*) had significant changes in abundance. Because transcript abundance for *NCED3* (involved in biosynthesis) was decreased and for *CYP707A1* (involved in catabolism) was increased, these results suggest that ABA biosynthesis and signaling are negatively affected in crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated plants (Table 2; SM-1). Thus, our results suggest that any stress-induced effects of glyphosate do not appear to involve direct ABA signaling. However, the increased abundance of *LEA5*, a putative ABA-responsive gene, could suggest the presence of reactive oxygen species in these crown buds, which would be consistent with similar results obtained from glyphosate-treated turf grasses (Cebeci and Budak 2009).

Impact of Glyphosate on Ethylene Biosynthesis, Signaling, and *AP2/ERF* Transcription Factors.

Ethylene is involved in numerous processes throughout the plant's life cycle including growth, senescence, and stress responses (Bleecker and Kende 2000). It is also believed to be involved in induction of endodormancy in crown buds of leafy spurge (Doğramacı et al. 2010, 2013). Therefore, we monitored changes in abundance of transcripts involved in ethylene biosynthesis, perception, and signaling in crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated leafy spurge (Table 3). Abundance of transcripts involved in ethylene biosynthesis changed little in paradormant crown buds 3 h–7 d posttreatment. However, *ACO4*, which encodes the enzyme for the biosynthesis of the ethylene precursor 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylate oxidase (ACC), had increased abundance 3–7 d posttreatment and its abundance declined after decapitation. The abundance of several other transcripts involved in ethylene biosynthesis (e.g., *ACS10*, *ACS8*, *SAM2*) were mainly increased 1–7 d after growth-inducing decapitation. Among the ethylene receptors evaluated (Table 3; SM-1), only *ETR2* increased in abundance 1–7 d posttreatment in paradormant crown buds. These transcripts did not change in crown buds after growth-inducing decapitation relative to nontreated controls. A transcription factor (*CTR1*) downstream of the *ETR2* receptor had increased transcript abundance 3 d posttreatment in paradormant crown buds and 1 d after growth-inducing decapitation. Most other transcripts involved in ethylene responses and signaling had little change in abundance (SM-1). However, increased abundance of a transcript encoding an

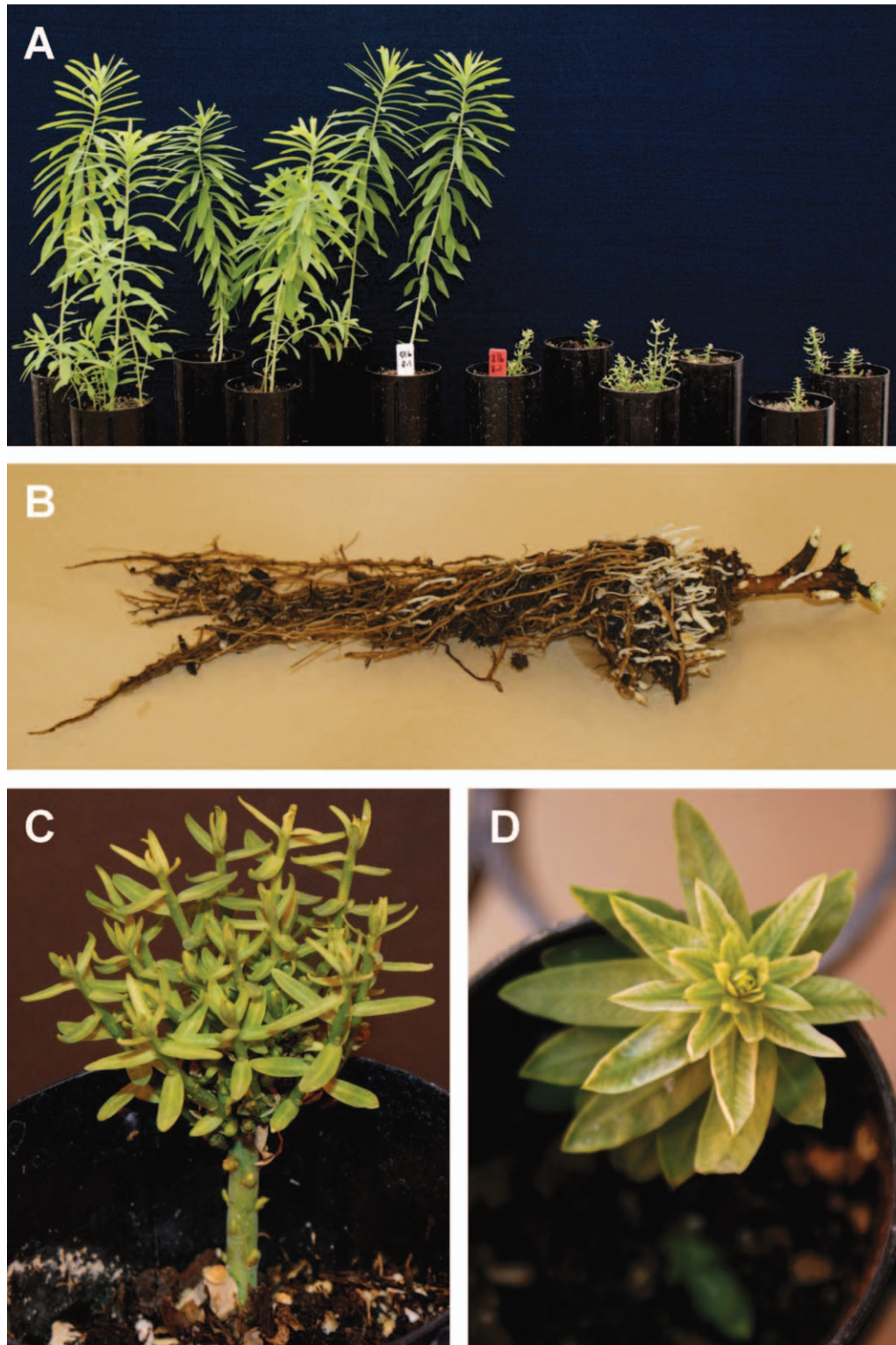


Figure 4. Vegetative shoot growth from crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated (0 or 2.24 kg ha⁻¹) leafy spurge; plants were kept under growth-conductive conditions for 7 d posttreatment, and then decapitated to induce vegetative growth. (A) New shoot growth from crown buds of treated plants (right) were significantly shorter compared with controls (left) 6 wk postdecapitation. (B) Numerous underground adventitious buds initiated shoot growth simultaneously from glyphosate-treated plants, but shoot growth was suspended after reaching ~2–3 cm and only a few extended beyond the soil surface. (C) The appearance of new shoots from crown buds of glyphosate-treated plants was often represented by stunted and bushy phenotypes. (D) Phenotypical patterns from crown buds of glyphosate-treated plants often included variegated leaves. (Color for this figure is available in the online version of this paper.)

Table 1. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in shikimate biosynthesis in crown buds (CB) of leafy spurge after foliar glyphosate treatment (surfactant + 2.24 kg ha⁻¹) compared with untreated controls (surfactant only). Paradormant CB were collected from intact plants at various time points after glyphosate treatment. Growth-induced CB were collected at various time points from treated plants that were decapitated 7 d after glyphosate treatment. The *Arabidopsis* information resource (TAIR) identifications (IDs) represent *Arabidopsis* genes used to annotate homologues of leafy spurge transcripts. Values represent fold changes; bold values represent P < 0.05 (*) or P < 0.1 (**).

Gene ID & category	TAIR ID	Paradormant CB				Growth-induced CB			
		3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d	3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d
Shikimate biosynthesis									
<i>CM1</i>	At3g29200	-0.04	-0.17	-0.02	0.11	0.13	0.47	0.02	-0.11
<i>DHS1</i>	At4g39980	-0.05	-0.02	0.07	-0.22	-0.32	0.37*	-0.19	-0.07
<i>DHS2</i>	At4g33510	-0.18	-0.20	0.18	0.18	0.28	0.53	0.13	-0.13
<i>EMB1144</i>	At1g48850	-0.04	-0.13	0.33**	-0.07	-0.03	0.68*	-0.17**	-0.35
<i>EPSPS</i>	At2g45300	-0.06	-0.01	0.15	0.07	0.016	0.57	-0.15	-0.22
<i>MEE32</i>	At3g06350	0.35	-0.39	-0.69*	-0.56*	-0.68*	-0.77	-0.44	-0.39
<i>SKI</i>	At2g21940	0.03	-0.18	0.42	-0.06	0.06	-0.07	-0.13	0.11

auxin-inducible ACC synthase (*ACS8*) in growth-induced crown buds could also suggest a potential for cross-talk among ethylene and auxin signaling pathways in response to glyphosate treatment (Table 3).

Some of the *AP2/ERF* transcription factors responsive to ethylene signaling in leafy spurge (Doğramacı et al. 2013) are also known to be involved in transcriptional regulation of downstream stress-responsive pathways (Mizoi et al. 2012). Indeed, exogenous application of the ethylene precursor ACC increased transcript abundance of some *AP2/ERFs* (e.g., *DREB26*, *ERF1*, and *ABR1*) in leafy spurge crown buds and resulted in a stunted vegetative regrowth following decapitation (Doğramacı et al. 2013). In this study, *ABR1* also had increased transcript abundance in paradormant crown buds 1–3 d posttreatment (Table 3), whereas

DREB26 and *ERF1* had increased transcript abundance in growth-induced crown buds 3 h–7 d postdecapitation. Thus, our data support glyphosate having an impact on ethylene signaling pathways, given the similarity observed in transcript abundance and growth patterns in this study and previous research (Doğramacı et al. 2013). Indeed, overexpression of several *AP2/ERFs*, including *DREB26*, has been shown to result in dwarfed phenotypes (Krishnaswamy et al. 2011; Mizoi et al. 2012), and overexpression of some members of the DREB1 class is known to induce dwarfism through regulation of GA metabolism (Magome et al. 2008; Tong et al. 2009). Some DREBs are also known to bind to cis-acting elements of *LEA5* and might explain the increased transcript abundance observed for a homologue of *LEA5* (Table 2).

Table 2. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in abscisic acid (ABA) biosynthesis, signaling, and response in crown buds (CB) of leafy spurge after foliar glyphosate treatment (surfactant + 2.24 kg ha⁻¹) compared with untreated controls (surfactant only). Paradormant CB were collected from intact plants at various time points after glyphosate treatment. Growth-induced CB were collected at various time points from treated plants that were decapitated 7 d after glyphosate treatment. The *Arabidopsis* information resource (TAIR) identifications (IDs) represent *Arabidopsis* genes used to annotate homologues of leafy spurge transcripts. Values represent fold changes; bold values represent P < 0.05 (*) or P < 0.1 (**); n, no data.

Gene ID & category	TAIR ID	Paradormant CB				Growth-induced CB			
		3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d	3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d
ABA biosynthesis									
<i>AAO3</i>	At2g27150	-0.19	0.61	0.41	0.15	-0.53	0.29	-0.17	0.37
<i>ABA1</i>	At5g67030	-0.09	-0.47**	-0.27	-0.36	-0.06	-0.02	0.04	-0.22
<i>ABA2</i>	At1g52340	0.005	-0.16	-0.05	-0.21	-0.17	0.19	-0.11	0.07
<i>CYP707A1</i>	At4g19230	-0.18	0.59	1.17*	0.42	1.10*	1.33*	0.32	0.40**
<i>NCED3</i>	At3g14440	0.77	-0.21	n	-0.16	-1.77*	-0.72	-0.81*	-0.34
ABA signaling/response									
<i>LEA5</i>	At4g02380	0.22	0.29	0.80	1.34*	10.90*	0.65**	2.59*	1.17*
<i>ABI1</i>	At4g26080	0.16	-0.42	-0.48**	-0.44	-0.33*	-0.50**	-0.14	-0.14**
<i>RCAR3</i>	At5g53160	-0.11	-0.62	-0.33	-0.41**	-0.14	0.11	0.04	0.04

Table 3. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in ethylene biosynthesis, signaling, and AP2/ERF transcription factor family members in crown buds (CB) of leafy spurge after foliar glyphosate treatment (surfactant + 2.24 kg ha⁻¹) compared with untreated controls (surfactant only). Paradormant CB were collected from intact plants at various time points after glyphosate treatment. Growth-induced CB were collected at various time points from treated plants that were decapitated 7 d after glyphosate treatment. The *Arabidopsis* information resource (TAIR) identifications (IDs) represent *Arabidopsis* genes used to annotate homologues of leafy spurge transcripts. Values represent fold changes; bold values represent P < 0.05 (*) or P < 0.1 (**); n, no data.

Gene ID & category	TAIR ID	Paradormant CB				Growth-induced CB			
		3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d	3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d
Ethylene biosynthesis									
<i>ACO4</i>	At1g05010	-0.31	-0.33	1.80*	2.30*	2.03*	0.81**	0.24	0.08
<i>ACS8</i>	At4g37770	n	-0.12	-0.47**	1.01	0.72	1.50*	2.30*	2.09*
<i>ACS10</i>	At1g62960	0.69	-0.02	0.51	0.08	0.03	0.05	-0.003	0.70**
<i>SAM2</i>	At4g01850	0.02	0.53	0.12	0.17	-0.49	0.93**	-0.37	0.31
Ethylene receptors									
<i>ETR2</i>	At3g23150	0.07	1.05*	1.68*	0.89*	-0.19	0.96	-0.21	0.24
Ethylene signaling									
<i>CTR1</i>	At5g03730	-0.05	0.18	0.64*	0.06	0.16	0.74*	-0.09	0.03
AP2/ERF TF									
<i>DREB26</i>	At1g21910	-0.35	0.06	0.31	0.69	3.34*	0.91**	1.35*	1.84*
<i>ERF1</i>	At4g17500	-0.25	0.43	0.24	0.31	0.40	1.51**	0.18	0.48*
<i>ABR1</i>	At5g64750	n	5.48*	2.27*	0.12	0.73	0.14	-0.43	0.18

Impact of Glyphosate on GA Biosynthesis and Cell Cycle. Among the transcripts monitored, the most striking change in abundance was observed for a homologue of *CPS1/GAI* (Table 4). The product of this transcript catalyzes the conversion of geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate to copalyl pyrophosphate, which provides substrates for the gibberellin biosynthetic pathway. However, only slight changes were observed in transcript abundance involved in biosynthesis of bioactive GA. The biosynthesis of GA can be divided into three stages: (1) cyclization of geranylgeranyl diphosphate by copalyl diphos-

phate synthase (CPS) and ent-kaurene synthase (KS) to produce ent-kaurene in the plastids; (2) conversion of ent-kaurene into GA12 via cytochrome P450 mono-oxygenases, such as, ent-kaurene oxidase (KO) and ent-kaurenoic acid oxidase (KAO) in the endoplasmic reticulum; and (3) conversion of GA12 to bioactive forms of GA in the cytosol. GA12 is a branch-point gibberellin undergoing various oxidation and cyclization processes to form the whole spectrum of bioactive gibberellins catalyzed by 2-oxoglutarate-dependent dioxygenases (e.g., GA20OX and GA3OX). KAO

Table 4. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in gibberellic acid (GA) biosynthesis and signaling in crown buds (CB) of leafy spurge after foliar glyphosate treatment (surfactant + 2.24 kg ha⁻¹) compared with untreated controls (surfactant only). Paradormant CB were collected from intact plants at various time points after glyphosate treatment. Growth-induced CB were collected at various time points from treated plants that were decapitated 7 d after glyphosate treatment. The *Arabidopsis* information resource (TAIR) identifications (IDs) represent *Arabidopsis* genes used to annotate homologues of leafy spurge transcripts. Values represent fold changes; bold values represent P < 0.05 (*) or P < 0.1 (**); n, no data.

Gene ID & category	TAIR ID	Paradormant CB				Growth-induced CB			
		3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d	3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d
GA biosynthesis									
<i>CPS1/GAI</i>	At4g02780	-0.02	0.25	14.56*	28.77*	10.54*	12.90*	11.73*	0.58*
<i>GA20OX1</i>	At4g25420	0.35	-0.46	-0.62	-0.27	-0.53	-0.26	0.44	-0.07
<i>GA20X8</i>	At4g21200	n	n	n	n	-0.13	0.54	-0.13	0.40
GA response - signaling									
<i>GASA2</i>	At4g09610	-0.34	-0.44	-0.98*	-2.66*	-0.44	-0.86	-0.14	-0.49
<i>RGAI</i>	At2g01570	-0.20	-0.52*	-0.30**	-0.60*	-0.07	-0.09	-0.04	-0.05
<i>RGA2</i>	At1g14920	-0.03	-0.48	-0.46**	-0.91*	0.12	0.03	0.02	0.04
<i>RGL2</i>	At5g66770	-0.35	-0.81*	-0.11	0.17	-0.10	-1.83*	0.04	-0.28
<i>SPY</i>	At3g11540	0.06	-0.16	-0.17	-0.24	-0.09	-0.17	0.005	-0.06
<i>SLY1</i>	At2g17980	-0.06	-0.65	-0.36**	-0.50**	-0.25	0.55	-0.34	0.05

Table 5. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in auxin biosynthesis and transport in crown buds (CB) of leafy spurge after foliar glyphosate treatment (surfactant + 2.24 kg ha⁻¹) compared with untreated controls (surfactant only). Paradormant CB were collected from intact plants at various time points after glyphosate treatment. Growth-induced CB were collected at various time points from treated plants that were decapitated 7 d after glyphosate treatment. The *Arabidopsis* information resource (TAIR) identifications (IDs) represent *Arabidopsis* genes used to annotate homologues of leafy spurge transcripts. Values represent fold changes; bold values represent P < 0.05 (*) or P < 0.1 (**).

Gene ID & category	TAIR ID	Paradormant CB				Growth-induced CB			
		3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d	3 h	1 d	3 d	7 d
Auxin transport									
<i>PILS2</i>	At1g71090	0.02	-0.16	0.25	0.04	-0.13	-0.03	-0.02	-0.04
<i>PILS3</i>	At1g76520	-0.17	-0.34	0.88**	0.25	0.65	0.68	0.21	0.19
<i>PILS6</i>	At5g01990	-0.04	0.07	0.49*	0.27*	0.00	-0.03	-0.12	-0.25
<i>PILS7</i>	At5g65980	-0.16	0.67	7.36*	12.13*	5.24	3.11*	1.16**	0.01
<i>PIN3</i>	At1g70940	-0.08	-0.47	-0.56*	-0.37*	-0.76*	-0.36	-1.72*	-0.97*
<i>PIN8</i>	At5g15100	0.05	-1.18	-1.58*	-0.88*	-0.42*	-0.26	-0.53	-1.25**
ABC transporter family									
<i>ABCB1</i>	At2g36910	0.03	-0.06	-0.44**	0.05	-0.13	0.47	0.39	0.60
<i>ABCB2</i>	At4g25960	0.09	-0.13	-0.60*	0.03	-0.21	0.33	-0.16	0.27
<i>ABCB19</i>	At3g28860	0.04	-0.72*	-1.10*	-0.44*	-1.65**	-0.06	-0.39	0.28
<i>ABCG40</i>	At1g15520	0.07	-0.43	-0.58**	-0.06	-0.23	-0.14	-0.09	0.13

is the rate-limiting step for production of GA intermediates and GA dioxygenases are involved in fine-tuning GA biosynthesis (Fleet et al. 2003; Hedden and Phillips 2000; Sponsel and Hedden 2004). There were no significant changes in transcript abundance of GA dioxygenases in paradormant and growth-induced crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated leafy spurge (Table 4). Thus, the increased abundance for the transcript of *CPS1* is noteworthy. If ent-copalyl diphosphate is produced and converted to ent-kaurene, metabolite flux through subcellular compartments could be affected because glyphosate rapidly disrupts proplastids, chloroplasts, and the endoplasmic reticulum, likely due to accumulation of shikimate (Campbell et al. 1976; Mollenhauer et al. 1987).

A GA-responsive transcript *GASA2* had decreased abundance in paradormant crown buds 3 and 7 d after glyphosate treatment of leafy spurge plants (Table 4). Cumulatively the results suggest that paradormant crown buds from foliar glyphosate-treated plants likely have decreased levels of GA. *DELLA* transcripts (i.e., *RGAI*, *RGA2*, *RGL2*), which function as negative regulators of GA-mediated signaling, had slightly decreased transcript abundance in paradormant crown buds in response to foliar glyphosate treatment. In the presence of GA, *DELLA* proteins are generally inhibited through targeted ubiquitination and proteolysis; consequently, GA inhibits the function of these growth-inhibiting *DELLA*s. If GA levels are actually low in the paradormant buds, one would expect *DELLA* proteins to be stabilized and possibly more

abundant, and thus the decreased abundance of *DELLA* transcripts (Table 4) might be expected. However, functional regulation of *DELLA*s is complex and there are alternative GA-independent routes that can also affect *DELLA*s (Dai and Xuea 2010; Harberd et al. 2009).

Overall, these results indicate that downstream GA biosynthesis and signaling are negatively affected, which may account for the stunted vegetative growth pattern obtained from crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated leafy spurge plants. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that certain commercial chemicals (e.g., phosphon D, cycocel, ancymidol, and paclobutrazol) used to stunt growth do so, in part, by blocking the synthesis of gibberellins (Sponsel and Hedden 2004). Additionally, loss of function of *CPS* and *KS* has been shown to cause a dwarfed phenotype in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) (Sakamoto et al. 2004), and loss of *KO* or *KAO* gene function causes dwarfed phenotypes in pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) (Davidson et al. 2003). It should not be surprising that the transcripts involved in cell cycle (e.g., *CDC2A*, *CDC2B*, *CYCD3;1*, *H3*, *H4*, *RB*) have decreased abundance (SM-1), considering the slow and stunted vegetative growth from crown buds of glyphosate-treated leafy spurge plants compared with the nontreated controls.

Impact of Glyphosate on Auxin and Auxin Transporters. Auxin plays a critical role in nearly every aspect of plant growth and development (Zhao 2010), and is derived in part from the shikimate to chorismate to tryptophan-dependent

pathway. Therefore, we monitored transcript abundance of numerous genes involved in auxin biosynthesis, perception, and signaling in paradormant and growth-induced crown buds after foliar glyphosate treatment. Changes in abundance of transcripts involved in tryptophan and auxin biosynthesis were not significant, whereas changes in abundance of transcripts involved in perception and signaling (Aux/IAAs, ARFs, SCF complex) were statistically significant, but the amplitude of changes were minor both in paradormant and growth-induced crown buds (SM-1). Some transcripts involved in auxin transport changed in abundance 3–7 d post-treatment in paradormant and 3 h–7 d in growth-induced crown buds. For example, *PIN3* and *PIN8* had decreased transcript abundance both in paradormant and growth-induced crown buds. *PINs* encode auxin efflux carriers, and these carriers mediate tissue-specific cell-to-cell polar auxin transport (Peer 2013), which is critical for developmental patterning and differential growth responses (Blilou et al. 2005). Interestingly, although strigolactones have been implicated in regulating auxin signaling by affecting *PINs* (Shinohara et al. 2013), in this study, transcripts involved in strigolactone signaling such as *MAX1* and *MAX2* were not significantly changed in response to glyphosate treatment (SM-1).

PIN-LIKES (PILS) are a family of auxin transport facilitator genes that are required for auxin-dependent regulation of plant growth and organ formation by determining the cellular sensitivity to auxin (Barbez et al. 2012; Feraru et al. 2012). *PILS* proteins facilitate intracellular auxin accumulation at the endoplasmic reticulum membrane, which regulates intracellular auxin accumulation presumably through conjugation-based auxin metabolism, and ultimately decreases nuclear auxin signaling (Barbez et al. 2012; Peer 2013). Generally, transcripts of *PILS* reflected increased abundance in crown buds, with *PILS7* showing a remarkable increase in abundance 3–7 d posttreatment in paradormant as well as in growth-induced crown buds 1–3 d after decapitation (Table 5). Interestingly, Barbez et al. (2012) demonstrated that ectopic expression of some *PILS* resulted in various abnormalities, including dwarfed and bushy *Arabidopsis* plants. Glyphosate's effect on transcript abundance of *PILS* observed in this study may, in part, be in response to induced ethylene signaling pathways as previously indicated above, since plants previously treated with the ethylene precursor ACC also had a significant increase in transcript abundance of *PILS3* and 7 (SM-1). These results would be

consistent with the known synergistic associations that occur between auxin and ethylene (Peer 2013).

ABC transporter family members contribute to adenosine triphosphate (ATP)-dependent auxin transport. They are responsive to abiotic stresses and have numerous other functions in plants, including detoxification processes and sequestration of secondary metabolites (Kang et al. 2011). Cellular uptake of glyphosate is suggested to involve a transporter (Denis and Delrot 1993; Riechers et al. 1994; Shaner 2009) and studies focusing on nontarget-site resistance also suggest that sequestration of glyphosate into vacuoles occurs by an active but yet unidentified transporter (Ge et al. 2010; Staub et al. 2012). Several ABC transporters have increased transcript abundance in response to glyphosate treatment and they were hypothesized to contribute to nontarget-site glyphosate resistance in horseweed (Peng et al. 2010; Yuan et al. 2007, 2010). Therefore, we monitored transcript abundance of several ABC transporters in crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated plants. Transcript abundance of four homologues of ABC transporters (*ABCB1*, *ABCB2*, *ABCB19*, *ABCB40*) were decreased in paradormant crown buds 1–7 d posttreatment, and *ABCB19* had decreased abundance 3 h postdecapitation in growth-induced crown buds (Table 5). In *Arabidopsis*, an *abcb19* mutant exhibits reduced growth, decreased apical dominance, and impaired polar auxin transport (Kang et al. 2011). Thus, these results would be consistent with glyphosate affecting auxin signaling and perception in crown buds, which could be affecting altered vegetative growth from crown buds observed in this study (Figure 4).

Overall, our results suggest that foliar glyphosate treatment has an impact on stress responses and several phytohormone biosynthesis and signaling pathways, particularly ethylene, auxin, and GA, which is consistent with altered cell cycle processes involved in plant growth and development. The increase in transcript abundance of *PILS7* was one of the major outcomes of this study, suggesting that glyphosate's effect on *PILS* could affect intracellular auxin accumulation and signaling, leading to altered vegetative growth patterns. Although further studies will be needed to confirm this hypothesis, these results indicate that *PILS* are responsive to foliar glyphosate treatment. Likewise, we further hypothesize that decreased transcript abundance of *PINs* and ABC transporter family members in crown buds of foliar glyphosate-treated leafy spurge alters auxin homeostasis, and thus vegetative growth. Overall, most of the significant processes identified in this

study are associated with the endoplasmic reticulum, suggesting that this organelle plays some role in cellular physiology in response to glyphosate treatment, particularly since glyphosate has been reported to affect the endoplasmic reticulum (Campbell et al. 1976). Further studies utilizing next-generation sequencing and metabolite profiling, similar to those described for Canada thistle (Anderson et al. 2012), should provide a deeper understanding of molecular mechanisms affected by glyphosate and their action on vegetative growth from UABs of perennial weeds.

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