



WATCH IT GROW

CROP UPDATE REPORT

Fall Weed Control – Talking Points

DATE: September 28th, 2023

The foundation of a solid weed management program begins in the fall, not the spring, when weeds are actively growing and are potentially larger which makes them harder to eliminate. As is widely known, fall applications of glyphosate on perennial crops and weeds are almost always more successful than spring burndowns. We often will get better control in the fall while applying less active ingredient thus making for a more successful and cost-efficient application.

So, what are the next steps?

1. Continue asking the right questions!
 - a. What are the target weed species?
 - b. What is the crop and weed staging?
 - c. Does the chemistry have re cropping restrictions?
2. Understanding the importance of multiple modes of action or a tank mix partner.

Preferred Tank Mix Options

As always, multiple modes of action are highly recommended to manage the potential for resistance development. It's a great time to add some Eragon, 2-4D Ester, or even a dicamba formulation to improve efficacy and speed up visual control before final tillage passes occur. It is safe to assume there is a lot of glyphosate resistant weeds around the countryside now, and if you know you have those weed challenges, this is a REQUIREMENT to tank mix and not just an option.

To determine which product is best often **depends on the crop itself and weed species**. Plants like alfalfa, dandelions, sow thistle, plantain etc. will require the addition of broadleaf chemistry to glyphosate. 2-4D ester would be a great partner in these circumstances. Red Clover in particular is hard to kill and responds well to the addition of Dicamba.

Final considerations for active ingredients include **rotational plans and soil residual values**. If rotation to vegetable crops at all including potatoes, then you will need to be careful with Dicamba and steer more towards 2-4D for instance.

How Long Should I Wait Before Tillage?

Ideally there should be 7 – 10 days before tillage after applying a fall burndown to allow the glyphosate to move into the plant roots.

What If I Am Planting Winter Wheat This Fall?

If you are planning on planting winter wheat a fall burndown of glyphosate with 2,4D Ester or Eragon LQ is a great option, but it is important to check the re-cropping restrictions as it is recommended you wait 2 weeks between spraying 2,4 D and planting your winter wheat. Most products including dicamba can NOT be applied ahead of winter wheat in the fall. If you can't control perennial weed pressure in your winter wheat crop ahead of planting, there are a number of post-emerge cereal herbicides labeled for fall application.

Fall burndowns are a great tool to get hard to control perennial weeds under control but should be used as part of proactive crop protection strategy. If you need help with your tank mix selection, give your Holmes Agro agronomist a call. That's what they are there for!