



May 2024

## Spring Herbicide Q & A

The sun is shining, wheat and weeds are growing, and soon sprayers will be applying herbicide applications! Here are some common questions about getting the most out of your spring herbicide application.

**Question:** There was frost the night before, can I still spray my cereal herbicide?

**A:** Large sways in the temperatures can influence the efficacy of herbicides, weed control, and crop safety. You want the crop and weeds to be actively growing to be able to uptake the herbicide. Remember the rule of 3x3 when spraying after a cold weather event. Temperatures above 3°C the night before, the night of application and one night after.

**Question:** How long should I wait between my burndown and working the field/ground?

**A:** The general rule is at least 24 hrs for small annuals, 48 hrs for perennial & large weeds but the longer you can wait the better herbicide efficiency you will achieve. If a glyphosate burndown is applied in ideal conditions (warm temperatures, actively growing weeds) it only takes a few hours for chemistry to reach the growing point of the plant. For large weeds, hard to kill species, and perennials it will take longer and is best to wait at least 48-72 hours. Ideally you would wait 7+ days between spraying and working the field to allow ample time for the chemistry to make its way into the roots of the plant.

**Question:** How do I get the most out of my glyphosate application?

**A:** OMAFRA & Mike Cowbrough have done great research on the optimal rates of glyphosate that are needed to provide control of common weeds. Check out the following articles [Optimizing the Performance of Glyphosate in Field Crops](#) from fieldcropnews.ca. Ensuring you are using quality spray water can also influence your herbicide efficiency. Hard water can lead to calcium and magnesium tying up pesticides such as glyphosate, and alkaline (high pH) water promotes the decomposition of the pesticides. There are water conditioners/additives available to lower spray water pH to the ideal level of a pH of 5. Ask your Holmes Agro crop advisor about getting your spray water pH tested.

Talk to your Holmes Agro Crop Advisor if you have questions about getting the most out of your spring herbicide application!

## Will Soil Temperatures Affect Corn & Soybean Germination?

**Did you know** - Corn starts germinating at 10°C (50°F) but won't have upward growth till 15°C (60°F). Soybeans ideal germination temperature is slightly higher at 12°C (55°F) but for fast even emergence it is recommended to wait till soil temperatures are 25°C (77°F).

When considering when to start spring seeding it is important to look at a multitude of factors that influence germination rates and timing. The presence of proper soil conditions should be a main consideration followed by the weather conditions. Monitoring the long-term weather forecast but most importantly the weather immediately following planting as the first 48 hours following planting are critical. When thinking about planting into cooler soils ensure you are planting into a good uniform seedbed, choosing the correct variety, planting your lighter well-drained soil first, and looking at the long-term forecast. As always it is recommended to consult your agronomist and tailor recommendations to your specific geological area and growing conditions. It is best to avoid blanket statements and to look at the real-life data. Check out this [MyFarm Update](#) for more information.

## 2024 Product Returns

We accept returns for any unopened, undamaged seed, skids, bulk bags or unopened chemical jugs. We do ask the following:

1. If we are picking up returns at your site, we prefer it if you can be there to help load. If you cannot be, please leave returns out for us, and if required, we will ask for approval to use your equipment.
2. If you are bringing returns to any of our locations, please ensure all products are on a skid to help ease the unloading process. Please call ahead to let us know you are bringing back returns.
3. **Cereal and forage returns are due back by May 29th and corn and soybean returns are due by June 12th.** All unopened chemical as soon as you are finished with the product or by July 31.



## Watch Us Grow – Staff Update

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to a few new faces that have joined the Holmes Agro team this spring..

Brady Hasson is joining us on May 6th as a full-time Junior Sales Agronomist. Brady comes to us with a background in sales agronomy in two prior positions and we look forward to the new ideas, passion, and previous experience he will bring to our business. Brady's home base will be our Orangeville office, though he will be out on the road much of his time supporting our growers directly.

Emma Hulse will be joining us on May 1st full-time as a dual role of Crop Protection Warehouse Assistant and Customer Service Associate. Emma comes to us with a background in animal science, agriculture and finance. Emma will work in our Orangeville location and we are looking forward to having her assist you.

We also have a number of other new faces for this growing season. We look forward to working with them this spring/summer season and hope we can continue to grow with them in future too. A warm welcome to:

Orangeville - Nikki Intranuovo, Customer Service Associate and Crop Scout; Rebecca Parkinson, Operations Associate; Cierra Schack, Operations Associate; and Jack McNichol, Operations Associate and Agronomy Intern

Redickville - Jocelyn Young, Operations Associate, Crop Scout and Professional Applicator Trainee

Stayner - Josh Stone, Operations Associate; Megan Woodhouse, Customer Service & Field Scout; Natalie Carlson, Customer Service & Field Scout

We also have several new and returning Delivery Drivers ramping up to get our products out to growers. Welcome and thank you to each of our drivers who ensure the fields have what they need to grow and stay healthy. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to these individuals when you have the chance, and we look forward to having them grow with Holmes Agro!

## Let's Talk Boron



**Boron's Role in the Plant** - Boron plays an important role in many plant functions, including cell wall formation and stability, maintenance of structural and functional integrity of biological membranes, movement of sugar or energy into growing parts of plants, and pollination and seed set. Adequate boron is also required for effective nitrogen fixation and nodulation in legume crops. Lack of boron commonly results in empty pollen grains, poor pollen vitality and a reduced number of flowers per plant. Low boron supply can also stunt root growth as sufficient boron levels improve the root uptake of phosphorus and potassium by maintaining proper function and structure of root cell membranes.

**Deficiency Symptoms** - Deficiency symptoms first develop in the new growth (or upper leaves) and can have a range of symptoms depending on the crop including stunting, shortened internodes, yellowing of top growth, and deformation/distorted leaves. Boron deficiency is more prevalent in high pH soils because boron is tied up and unavailable for plant uptake or in sandy soils with low organic matter.

**Management Strategies** - Boron deficiency is generally managed through proactive soil-applied fertilizers, although foliar application can be applied as well. Foliar nutrients are used to address a crop nutrient deficiency in season. This will strictly try to prevent or correct the issue for the growing crop, any soil deficiency will not be addressed. If a known nutrient deficiency is likely to occur the application of a soil-applied fertilizer and complimentary foliar nutrient program is a good proactive strategy as a preventative measure as opposed to trying to correct a deficiency once it appears. It is important to soil sample and apply boron fertilizer according to the recommendation.

## Clean Farm Collections Now Open

Clean Farms collections are NOW OPEN! To keep ahead of the volume of recycling bags growers MUST call ahead when they have jugs/bags to return. As always, jugs must be triple rinsed, with lids and labels removed. Check [cleanfarms.ca](http://cleanfarms.ca) for [container rinsing procedures](#) and more information!

 Accepted	 NOT Accepted
Clean, triple rinsed pesticide, fertilizer, & seed treatment containers	Unrinsed containers. Containers used for home & garden care