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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-1] [March 11, 1988]

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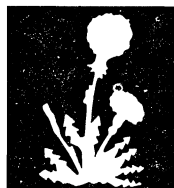
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**INSECT
PLANT DISEASE
WEED SCIENCE**

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
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No. 88-1
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Alfalfa Weed Control

Warm weather has prompted the development of winter annual weeds in alfalfa. Downy brome, pennycress and other mustards can be effectively controlled with herbicide treatments at this time of year. Many times the weed problem isn't recognized until the alfalfa "greens up" in the spring -- then it's too late for most herbicides.

For use on alfalfa established one year or longer there is Lexone, Sencor, and Sinbar. Those herbicides control both winter annual grasses and broadleaf weeds including pennycress and downy brome. Alfalfa injury may occur on soils containing less than 1% organic matter. If dormancy has broken, Sencor can be applied impregnated on dry fertilizer prior to 3 inches of new growth on the alfalfa. Foliage should be dry.

Kerb and Karmex are also labeled for use on established alfalfa. Kerb is used for the control of downy brome and other grasses while Karmex controls mostly broadleaf weeds. Karmex has performed well in the western part of the state but the heavy soils in the eastern portion reduce weed control.

Butyrac or Butoxone (2,4-DB) is "so-so" on pennycress and other mustards in the spring but can be used in both established and new seedings where plants have at least two trifoliolate leaves. These herbicides should not be used where temperatures will drop to 40 degrees F within three days after application.

We've had several inquiries on the use of 2,4-D for pennycress and mustard control in alfalfa. While this appears to be a successful treatment, it is not an approved EPA label use. We feel the practice would be legitimate where an established stand is going into conservation uses. No forage would be harvested. The use of 3/4 to 1 pint of 2,4-D ester applied to dormant alfalfa would eliminate pennycress and mustards thereby preventing seed production on conservation acres.

Before deciding on a herbicide treatment, decide whether the alfalfa stand is worth the expense. Stands with less than 3 plants per square foot may not respond to improved weed control. The condition of the stand may also dictate which herbicide to use. If you plan on rotating out of alfalfa next year, avoid using Sinbar and Karmex. Both herbicides have rotational restrictions of 2 years following their use.



New Soybean Herbicides

Several new soybean herbicides have come on the scene in the last few years. A brief summary highlighting important points follows. Single ingredient herbicides are listed first followed by their prepacks.

Arena (generic alachlor) Monsanto. Several other trade names are pending registration for 1988. These include Judge, Confidence, Stall, and Saddle.

Classic (chlorimuron) DuPont. Used postemergence, provides excellent control of cocklebur and sunflower and other broadleaf weeds in soybeans. Must be applied with a surfactant. Velvetleaf control is improved with the addition of 28% N. Do not apply to soils with a pH of greater than 6.8. Classic use following Scepter, Preview, or Lorox Plus will increase potential carryover.

Preview (10:1 ai Lexone to Classic) DuPont. Applied preplant incorporated or preemergence for broad spectrum broadleaf control in soybeans. Do not apply to soils with a pH greater than 6.8 or to soils with less than 0.5% organic matter. Carryover potential is increased when used with Classic or Scepter.

Cobra (lactofen) PPG. Provides postemergence broadleaf control somewhat similar to Blazer but stronger on velvetleaf. Must be applied with a nonionic surfactant.

Command (Clomazone) FMC. Applied preplant incorporated, controls annual grasses and many broadleaf weeds. A preemergence label is pending for portions of Nebraska. Excellent on velvetleaf but weak on pigweed. Do not rotate to small grain or alfalfa as injury may occur.

Commence (3 lb Treflan + 2.25 lb Command) FMC and Elanco. Must be incorporated. This prepack offers improved pigweed and grass control compared to Command by its self. The same precautions and rotational restrictions apply with Commence as with Command.

Galaxy (3.0 lb Basagran + 0.67 lb Blazer) BASF. Broad spectrum postemergence broadleaf weed control. Use with crop oil concentrate or 28% N solution.

Option (fenoxaprop) FMC. A postemergence grass herbicide similar to Fusilade.

Salute (1.33 lb Sencor + 2.66 lb trifluralin) Mobay. Must be incorporated.

Scepter (imazaquin) American Cyanamid. Provides broad spectrum control of broadleaf weeds and some grasses. Applied ppi, pre or postemergence but the ppi application provides more consistent control of velvetleaf. Potential carryover problems are increased when used with Classic or Preview. Labeled for use in the eastern one-fifth of the state plus irrigated soybeans elsewhere to minimize carryover problems to corn and sugar beets.

Squadron (2 lb Prowl + 0.33 lb Scepter) American Cyanamid. Provides improved grass control compared to Scepter alone. Similar use restrictions and precautions apply to Squadron as Scepter.

Tri-Scept (trifluralin + Scepter) American Cyanamid. Provides improved grass control compared to Scepter. Must be incorporated. Similar use restrictions and precautions as Scepter. Registration anticipated for 1988.

Turbo (1.45 lb Sencor + 6.55 lb Dual) Mobay. Applied preemergence or surface mixed.

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