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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-4] [April 15, 1988]

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INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
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No. 88-4
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Musk and Plumeless Thistle

Check pastures and rangeland for musk and plumeless thistle. Right now is the perfect time to apply herbicides for their control. Thistles are most susceptible to herbicides when they are in the rosette stage. Because of our warm weather, the rosettes are big, ripe and luscious; the perfect condition for herbicide applications. Musk and plumeless thistle grow under cool conditions. Therefore, herbicides are slower acting but still effective. It's important to apply herbicides before the thistles bolt. It's much better to treat a thistle rosette on a 50° F day than a bolted plant on a 70° F day.

In eastern and southern Nebraska, apply treatments by late April. In the northern and western portion of Nebraska, effective control can be applied 10 days to 2 weeks later. Effective treatments include 1 1/2 to 2 quarts 2,4-D ester or 1 quart 2,4-D + 1/2 pint Banvel or 6 to 8 ounces of Tordon 22K per acre.

All of the suggested herbicides are injurious to trees, shrubs, windbreaks, gardens, ornamentals, alfalfa, and other broadleaf crops. Make applications when there is little or no wind movement. Tordon is a restricted use herbicide and should only be applied by certified applicators.

Weed Control in New CRP Seedings

Successful perennial forage establishment depends on the presence of adequate soil water for seed germination and seedling emergence. Weeds can quickly deplete soil moisture and must be controlled to allow grass and legume seedlings to germinate and emerge. In addition, rapidly growing, uncontrolled weeds can form a canopy which shades slower growing desirable plants. Weeds must be controlled on CRP acres to reduce the risks of seeding failure and eliminate possible reseeding costs. Several herbicides have been labelled for use on CRP situations.

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Preplant Treatments

2,4-D ester is an economical choice to control broadleaf weeds at least one month before seeding grasses or legumes. Use 1 pint/acre for most small broadleaf weeds; increase the rate to 2 pints/acre if large weeds are present at application. Remember that 2,4-D can persist in the soil for up to 4 weeks after application and it may injure grass seedlings and legumes if applied within 30 days of planting.

Landmaster at 40-54 ounces/acre can be used for grass and broadleaf control, but because it contains 2,4-D, it must also be applied at least 30 days before grass and legume seeding. Apply Landmaster in 10 GPA of carrier or less; Landmaster is formulated such that additional surfactant is not needed.

Roundup may be applied before seeding or before grasses and legumes emerge to control most grass and broadleaf weeds. Use 1 pint/acre and add a surfactant (at least 80% active ingredient) at 0.5% v/v; ammonium sulfate can be added at 2% w/v (17 lbs per 100 gal of spray solution) to further improve activity. Always apply Roundup in 10 GPA of carrier or less.

Cyclone can also be applied as a burndown treatment to control emerged weeds before seeding or preemergence. Use 1.5-2.0 pints/acre and add a surfactant at 0.25% v/v.

The preplant treatments discussed will not injure grasses or legumes when applied at the recommended interval before grass seeding. However, because of their short soil persistence, they will not control weeds that emerge after forage seeding, and a postemergence treatment may be required later to control weeds in the established grass and/or legume stand.

Preemergence Treatments

Glean is labeled for preemergence application at 0.33 ounce/acre to the following grasses; blue grama, bluestem, meadow or smooth bromegrass, buffalograss, galleta, green needlegrass, indian ricegrass, prairie sandreed, sand dropseed, sand lovegrass, side oats grama, switchgrass, wheatgrass, and Russian or beardless wild rye. Add a surfactant at 0.25% v/v if weeds have emerged before application. Do not use Glean on areas that will be underseeded with legumes or soils with greater than 7.9 pH. Glean may be tank mixed with Roundup to control grass weeds before or at seeding time.

Atrazine is labelled for preemergence application in pure switchgrass or big bluestem stands only. It will kill other grass species and legumes. Apply 1-2 quarts/acre after planting but before the grass emerges. Use the lower rate on high pH, low organic matter soils. Atrazine can be tank mixed with Cyclone or Roundup to weeds that are present at application.

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