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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-11] [June 10, 1988]

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Martin, Alex and Stougarrd, Bob N., "INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-11] [June 10, 1988]" (1988). *Historical Publications in Weed Science and Weed Technology.* Paper 34.
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INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
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No. 88-11
June 10, 1988

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Postemergence Weed Control in Soybeans

Timing of postemergence herbicide applications is more dependent on the weed growth stage than crop stage. However, small weeds are more readily controlled than large ones. Basagran, Blazer, Tackle, Scepter, combinations of these, Galaxy, Classic, and Cobra should be used when most susceptible weeds are no taller than 4 inches for best control. Nitrogen solutions (28-0-0 and 32-0-0 at 1 gallon per acre) increase Basagran, Blazer, Classic, and Galaxy activity but weed size limitations remain. Taller weeds are defoliated but they often recover.

The spectrum of weeds controlled varies with herbicide. Basagran is effective against cocklebur, smartweed, sunflower, and velvetleaf. Strong points of Blazer and Tackle include black nightshade, pigweeds, and smartweed control. A combination of Basagran and Blazer or Tackle is often used for broader spectrum control. Galaxy is a premix combination of Basagran and Blazer. Classic is effective against cocklebur, smartweed, sunflower, and provides pigweed suppression. With nitrogen solution as an additive, Classic also controls velvetleaf. The weed spectrum of Cobra is similar to Blazer and Tackle with one difference being its' greater effectiveness against velvetleaf.

Fusilade and Poast have excellent crop safety; soybean injury is not a concern with these herbicides. Annual grasses should be treated before they tiller. Tillering often occurs when grasses are 3 to 4 inches tall. Grasses treated after the tillering stage usually recover and regrow from the crown. Volunteer corn and shattercane are very susceptible to Fusilade and Poast. Good control can be achieved of plants up to 18 inches tall.

Spray additives are required with each of these herbicides. Additives include crop oil concentrate, nonionic surfactants, fertilizer solutions, and ammonium sulfate. Each herbicide has specific additive requirements--consult the label for details. In some cases lesser herbicide rates are required with certain additives. Nitrogen solution (28-0-0) has largely replaced crop oil concentrate as an additive with Basagran and improves Classic activity against velvetleaf. Dash, a new additive for Poast, enhances activity and eliminates the need for increasing the Poast rate when tank mixing with Basagran.

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Herbicide Drift

Herbicide injury problems from drift and volatility occur each year. Farm crops as well as gardens, ornamentals and windbreaks are damaged. This not only applies to farm chemicals, but turfgrass herbicides as well.

There are several factors which contribute to drift potential, some being easier to control than others. Environmental considerations are often the most important. One factor which plays a major role is wind speed. Try to make application early in the morning or early evening when wind speeds are low, preferably below 10 MPH. This corresponds to low air temperatures as well. Volatile herbicides have a greater potential to cause injury as air and soil temperatures increase. Injury is also greater under conditions of high relative humidity.

Application techniques can be adjusted to minimize spray drift and are more easily controlled than environmental conditions. Keep the spray as close to the target weeds as possible. The greater the height spray material is released above the target, the more likely it is to move to nontarget plants. Use nonvolatile herbicide formulations if they are available. Keep spray pressure as low as possible. The lower the pressure, the larger the spray droplets, and the less likelihood of drift occurring. Nozzle types and spray additives are available that reduce the number of fine droplets which in turn cut down on drift. Leave an untreated boarder strip next to susceptible plants.

Control Weeds on ACR Acres

Left unattended ACR acres can turn into a real weed problem next year. Take advantage of the opportunity to clean up a weed problem, don't create a problem for next year.

Ideal growing conditions coupled with no tillage on ACR acres has set the stage for excellent control of perennial weeds. Keys to success in perennial weed control with herbicides are good growing conditions and correct growth stage of the weed.

Flower bud through flower stages are ideal for treatment of perennial weeds with 2,4-D, Banvel, and Roundup. Canada thistle, field bindweed, hemp dogbane, and common milkweed on undisturbed sites are at or approaching these growth stages. Swamp smartweed will be later in reaching treatment stage. ACR acres are an opportunity to deal with these weeds without a crop involved.

Apply 1 1/2 quarts 2,4-D ester (4 lb/gallon) or 1 quart 2,4-D plus 1/2 pint Banvel for Canada thistle, field bindweed, and hemp dogbane control. A combination of 1 quart 2,4-D plus 1 pint Banvel can be used on swamp smartweed. Roundup can also be used on these weeds. The Banvel treatment will also suppress common milkweed. The best treatment for common milkweed is Roundup at 3-4 quarts per acre.

Annual broadleaf weeds can also be controlled with 2,4-D or 2,4-D + Banvel. Where annual grass and broadleaf weeds are the problem a combination of Roundup and 2,4-D amine is an effective treatment. **Deploy**, a new formulation of glyphosate without the surfactants contained in Roundup, has been labeled for use on ACR acres. There is a cost savings in using Deploy compared to Roundup, however the user must add surfactant.

Weed Tour Reminder

The Nebraska Weed Tour is scheduled for Sidney on June 20 and Scottsbluff and North Platte on June 21. The Tour continues at Clay Center and Lincoln on June 22 and concludes at Concord on June 23.

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