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In This Issue:
- Weed Control in Winter Wheat
- Weed Control in Oats
- New Herbicides and Registrations

Weed Control in Winter Wheat

Even if you're unsure as to how the winter wheat crop will survive the winter, you can definitely count on weeds being present. The most likely candidates are kochia, pennycress, and other mustards. If weeds are present, control measures should be taken soon, but, because of the adverse growing conditions, extra care should be taken this year to make sure the wheat is well tillered before herbicide applications are made.

Blue mustard should have been treated by now for best results. Spring treatments can be effective if applications are made before the plant gets much over 3 inches tall. Daytime temperatures of 50 degrees F or higher are desirable for best control. Treat with 1 pint 2,4-D amine or 1/2 to 3/4 pint 2,4-D ester on fully tillered wheat. Ally at 0.1 ounce/A plus 1/4 pint 2,4-D ester/A also works well, but be aware of rotational restrictions. Pennycress and other mustards can be effectively controlled with applications of 2,4-D. It is important to treat before flower stalks elongate (bolting occurs). Late spraying is the most common cause of poor weed control in wheat.

Wild buckwheat, kochia, and smartweed require more than 2,4-D. Use Banvel at 1/4 pint plus 2,4-D amine at 3/4 pint. Buctril at 1 to 1.5 pints plus 1/2 pint 2,4-D amine, or Bronate or Curtail are also excellent treatments.

As a result of weed resistance problems, new restrictions apply to the use of Glean in Nebraska. Glean can be used at 0.17 to 0.33 ounces/acre in combination with 8 ounces of 2,4-D east of Highway 183 only. Because of carryover concerns, Glean should only be used in wheat, wheat-fallow, or wheat-spring small grain rotations on soils with a pH of 7.9 or less.

Weed Control in Oats

Early summer annual weeds such as kochia, smartweed and wild mustard are likely to be problems in oats. Herbicide control options are fewer and risk of crop injury is greater compared to winter wheat. Herbicide applications should be made when the oat crop is in the 3 to 4th leaf
stage. Applications made prior to or after this stage increase the risk of crop injury. Herbicide options include MCPA at 1/2 to 1 pint/acre, 1/2 to 1 pint 2,4-D amine, or a tank-mix of 1/2 pint 2,4-D amine plus 1 to 1/2 pint of Buctril 2EC. Do not use 2,4-D ester formulations on oats as it is more likely to cause injury than the amine formulation.

New Herbicides and Registrations

Several new herbicides have been registered recently. There have also been changes in the labels of a number of previously registered herbicides. A brief summary highlighting important points follows.

**Buctril** - A recent label change eliminates the use of Buctril on turf. All agricultural uses remain. Rhone-Poulenc.

**Bullet** - A premix combination containing the equivalent of 2.5 qt Lasso MT plus 1.5 qt Atrazine 4L per gallon. Bullet is registered for use on corn. Monsanto.

**Cannon** - A premix combination containing the equivalent of 2.5 qt Lasso EC and 0.5 qt Treflan per gallon. Registered for use single pass incorporated in fieldbeans and soybeans. Monsanto.

**Command** - A label change permits the use of Command preemergence on soybeans throughout Nebraska. Preemergence applications are prohibited near certain horticultural crops and near heavily populated areas. Previously preemergence applications were limited to certain counties. FMC.

**Curtail** - A premix combination of clopyralid and 2,4-D amine for broadleaf weed control in small grain and CRP acres. Curtail is particularly effective on thistles and other members of the composite family. Dow.


**Freedom** - A premix combination containing the equivalent of 2.67 qt Lasso EC and .33 qt Treflan per gallon. Registered for use single pass incorporated in soybeans. Monsanto.

**Pursuit** - (imazethapyr) A new herbicide recently registered for ppi, preemergence and postemergence use in soybeans. Pursuit is more effective on velvetleaf and shattercane than Scepter. Corn is more tolerant to Pursuit than Scepter, however, sorghum is more sensitive. American Cyanamid.

**Pursuit Plus** - A premix combination containing the active ingredients in Prowl and Pursuit. Pursuit Plus was recently registered for use ppi in soybeans. American Cyanamid.

**Reflex** - (fomesafen) A postemergence herbicide related to Blazer and Cobra registered for postemergence broadleaf weed control in soybeans. Sorghum should not be planted the year following Reflex use. ICI.

**Stinger** - (clopyralid) A new herbicide registered for postemergence broadleaf weed control in sugarbeets. Stinger is especially effective on thistles, sunflowers and other members of the composite family. Dow.

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