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Late Season Broadleaf Weed Control in Corn and Sorghum

Corn should not be sprayed with 2,4-D from a week before tassel emergence until after the silks turn brown. Treatments during this critical time often interfere with pollination and cause yield reductions. After the silks turn brown, pollination is complete and 2,4-D use can safely resume. The early planted corn in Nebraska is now in the stage where it should not be sprayed with 2,4-D.

Grain sorghum should not be sprayed with 2,4-D from the boot stage through dough stage of the grain. As in corn, pollination problems and yield reductions result from spraying sorghum during this sensitive period. Spraying with 2,4-D can be resumed after the soft dough stage. Between 12" height and boot stage, drop extension should be used to direct 2,4-D away from the sorghum whorl. Under no conditions should Banvel be used on grain sorghum after it is 15" tall.

Rescue Treatments for Soybeans

Most broadleaf weeds taller than 6" cannot be consistently controlled in soybeans with postemergence herbicides. There are no soybean herbicides that perform like 2,4-D and Banvel.

Rescue from Uniroyal is a combination of Alanap and 2,4-DB registered for control of escaped sunflower 12" to flowerbud and cocklebur 8" to 24" tall in soybeans. Applications should be made after soybeans are 14" tall or first bloom. Crop oil concentrate or a nonionic surfactant should be used with Rescue. Spray pressures of 40 to 50 psi result in better coverage and weed control. Aerial application and spot spraying are also labeled. Under dry conditions, soybeans may wilt and suffer setback by a Rescue treatment. Recovery may not be complete if the weather stays dry. Weeds under dry conditions may not be completely controlled.
Butyrac 200 (2,4-DB) is registered as a broadcast treatment for cocklebur control from 10 days prebloom to midbloom. Some control of morningglory may also occur. Cocklebur must form a protective canopy over the soybeans or crop injury may occur. Soybeans may show some effects of the herbicide for several days after treatment. Without a protective weed canopy, considerable soybean injury results from broadcast treatments.

Wiper and Bean Bar Applications

**Wiper** applicators are popular for controlling tall growing weeds in shorter crops. The weeds should be at least 10" taller than the crop. Roundup is the herbicide of choice for wiper applications in sorghum and soybeans. A concentration of 25% Roundup in water is used for control of broadleaf and grass weeds. Shattercane and volunteer corn are very susceptible to Roundup. Roundup concentrations of 20% work well on these plants.

Roundup is less effective against broadleaf weeds than grasses. Sunflower and pigweed control is usually good but velvetleaf is not readily controlled. Some have suggested adding 2,4-D to Roundup for improved broadleaf control with wiper applicators. Our experience is that the addition of 2,4-D reduces control compared to Roundup alone. Dense stands of weeds make good herbicide coverage difficult with a wiper. Two passes, in opposite directions, are required for good control.

**Bean Bars** have become quite popular for controlling weed escapes in soybeans. Weeds need not be taller than the crop since they are individually sprayed with hand held spray nozzles. Roundup is registered at a 5% concentration for straight stream nozzles and a 2% concentration in spreading nozzles. For shattercane and volunteer corn these concentrations can be reduced somewhat.

Some crop damage occurs with Roundup in a bean bar since spray droplets contact the crop. Growers have searched for treatments that are safer to soybeans than Roundup. Amiben has been used by some individuals in an effort to control velvetleaf in soybeans with minimum crop injury. A common mixture has been 6 quarts of Amiben plus 2 ounces of Butyrac 200 in 25 gallons of water. This treatment is not registered for use in a bean bar. However, Amiben is registered postemergence in soybeans up to 33 days after planting. Basagran, Blazer, Fusilade and Poast have been used in bean bars to provide weed control with less crop injury than Roundup. These herbicides are generally mixed at 1 quart in 25 gallons of water plus 1 quart oil concentrate or with Blazer 1 pint surfactant.

Nebraska Leafy Spurge Conference

The 2nd Annual Nebraska Leafy Spurge Conference, Workshop and Tour will be held Wednesday, August 2nd, at the National Guard Armory at O'Nei, Nebraska. Registration costs $10.00. For additional information, contact the North Central Nebraska RC&D, P.O. Box 130, Bassett, NE 68714.

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