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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 89-15] [August 1, 1989]

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INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
EAST CAMPUS 68583-0915 PHONE 472-1527 or 472-1544

No. 89-15
August 1, 1989

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Late Season Weed Control in Corn and Sorghum

Late season broadleaf weed control in corn and sorghum is possible with 2,4-D. Such a treatment could make harvesting easier and reduce weed seed production. Treatments should be applied no later than flowering stage of weeds for control of seed production. Both corn and sorghum can suffer yield reductions from 2,4-D applied during the flowering period. As a guideline, 2,4-D use on corn can be resumed after the silk turns brown. The use of 2,4-D on sorghum can be resumed after the grain reaches the early dough stage. Sorghum should not be sprayed with 2,4-D between the beginning of head emergence and the milk stage of the grain. These late 2,4-D treatments will not cause lodging or stalk brittleness in the crop.

A 1 lb/A application of 2,4-D will control many large broadleaf weeds including pigweed, sunflower, and cocklebur but will be weak on velvetleaf. The weeds become increasingly difficult to control as they mature. Ester formulations are likely to perform better than amines; however, esters produce vapors that may damage sensitive crops, gardens, and ornamentals. Not all brands of 2,4-D are labeled for this use.

Bindweed Control Where Wheat is to be Planted

Fall is usually an excellent time to make herbicide applications for field bindweed control. However, healthy new growth on the bindweed is essential for good results. Avoid tillage for at least 30 days prior to treatment. Dry weather in some areas has reduced bindweed growth making it more difficult to control. It would be best to wait for rain and new bindweed growth before treating. This could be too late this fall for land going to wheat. September treatments are usually more effective than August treatments.

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Effective herbicides for bindweed control include 2,4-D at 1 qt/A or 4 lb/gal material, 2,4-D plus 1 pt Banvel, Roundup at 1 gal/A, or 2 qt Roundup plus 1 pt of Banvel/A. A bindweed suppression treatment consists of 1 pt Roundup plus 1 pt 2,4-D amine or 1/2 pt Banvel plus 1/2 to 1 percent nonionic surfactant in 5 to 10 gallons of water/A. Delay tillage for one week after application to allow herbicide translocation into the root system. Wheat planting should be delayed 15 days after using 2,4-D. The Banvel label specifies a 45-day delay in wheat planting for each pint of Banvel applied; however, damage would be minimal at 30 days.

August Lawn Renovation

August is the time to get started with turf renovation. Roundup is a useful herbicide for such projects. Skip one or two mowings so there is good growth on the weeds and grass for herbicide intake and activity. Apply 2 1/2 to 3 oz of Roundup/1000 sq ft using 1 gal or less of water. Delay vertical mowing, slicing, coring, and power raking for seven days.

There are many successes with reduced tillage or conservation tillage systems for grass establishment. A typical program would include close mowing and clipping removal seven or more days after the Roundup treatment. The next step would be fertilization followed by slicing or vertical mowing at least twice at right angles. Vigorous power raking could also be used as a tillage method. After slicing, vertical mowing or power raking, seed the grass. After seeding, water religiously. Watering will take the seed down to the soil through the natural mulch. Large seeded grasses such as tall fescue would be applied between tillage operations, thus assuring that the seed doesn't "hang up" with the residue. Seedbed preparation and seeding can also follow the usual land preparation fashion.

Herbicide Use Guide Revision

Industry reps, extension agents, and all other users of our Herbicide Use Guide: now is the time to submit your suggestions for our 1990 edition. We appreciate your input of previous years. You have helped make the Nebraska Herbicide Use Guide a most useful weed control aid for farmers, dealers, applicators, farm managers, consultants, extension agents, and others. Your suggestions for the 1990 Guide should reach us by September 1. Send to Weed Science, 362 Plant Science Building, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0915.

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