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## INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 87-1] [February 20, 1987]

Alex R. Martin

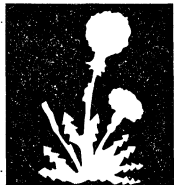
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**INSECT  
PLANT DISEASE  
WEED SCIENCE****NEWS**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,  
EAST CAMPUS 68583-0915 PHONE 472-1555

Number 87-1  
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Alfalfa Weed Control

The mild winter to date has prompted development of winter annual weeds in alfalfa including downy brome, pennycress, and other mustards. Herbicides are effective in controlling these weeds, however, correct application timing is important. Many times the weed problem isn't recognized until the alfalfa "greens up" in the spring -- then it is too late for most herbicides. Alfalfa "green up" will not be far off if mild weather prevails.

For use on alfalfa established one year or longer there is Lexone, Sencor, and Sinbar. Those herbicides control both winter annual grasses and broadleaf weeds including downy brome and pennycress. Lexone, Sencor, and Sinbar can be applied in the early spring. Alfalfa injury may occur on soils containing less than 1% organic matter with any of the herbicides. Where new growth has occurred, "burn back" of alfalfa growth will occur.

Butyrac or Butoxone (2,4-DB) is "so-so" on pennycress and other mustards in the spring but can be used in both established alfalfa and new seedlings where plants have at least two trifoliolate leaves. These herbicides should not be used where temperatures will drop to 40° F within three days after application.

We've had many inquiries on the use of 2,4-D for pennycress and mustard control in alfalfa. While this appears to be a successful treatment, it is not an approved EPA labeled use.

We feel the practice would be legitimate where an established stand is going into conservation uses. No forage would be harvested. The use of 3/4 to 1 pint of 2,4-D ester applied to dormant alfalfa would eliminate pennycress and mustards and thereby prevent seed production on conserving acres.



### Miracle Products via Telephone

"Miracle Herbicides" are again being sold by long distance telephone from New York and other large eastern cities. The products generally consist of 96 to 98% petroleum distillates with small amounts of 2,4-D, bromacil, or similar herbicides. Claims often include performance as good as Roundup at half the cost. Free gifts are sometimes offered as bonuses. The long distance calls are usually made early in the morning.

Doing business with local dealers eliminates long distance rip-offs. Local dealers handle proven products and have reputable manufacturers and service groups to follow-up on product performance. Do yourself a favor and buy herbicides from a local supplier.

### 1987 Herbicide Use Guide

Each year there is an updated version of our herbicide use guide. The conservation tillage section has been revised and the publication contains 40 pages. If you have not received the 1987 edition, obtain a copy from your Nebraska Cooperative Extension Office. Copies are also available by contacting Weed Science, 362 Plant Science Building, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 68583-0910.

### Crop Protection Clinic Proceedings

We have a limited number of the proceedings from our 1987 Crop Protection Clinics. Most of the clinic presentations, along with research data, are included in the 258 page publication. There is a \$5.00 charge. Send your request and check to 362 Plant Science Building, University of Nebraska, Lincoln 68583-0910 or call (402) 472-1530.

*Alex Martin*

Alex R. Martin  
Extension Weed Specialist