8-21-1987

INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 87-22] [August 21, 1987]

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
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In This Issue:

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 1988 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 1988 Guide should reach us by September 18. Send to Weed Science, 362 Plant Science Building, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0915.

Desiccants for Drying Weeds in Crops

Inquiries have started to come in on desiccants for soybeans, grain sorghum, and corn. The primary concern is the drying of weed growth to facilitate harvest. Timely early harvest is especially important where wheat is to be seeded following harvest.

There are no labeled desiccants for corn. Gramoxone is registered as a desiccant for soybeans. For indeterminate soybean varieties (most of those grown in Nebraska), applications should be made after 65% of the soybean pods have turned brown. The treatment will "dry up" green weeds and speed the crop dry-down. However, Gramoxone falls short of drying up black nightshade.

Sodium chlorate, available under several trade names, is available as a desiccant for grain sorghum. Applications should be made after the sorghum is ready for a frost (grain moisture of 30% or less).

Sodium chlorate is widely used in the south as a cotton desiccant. On short notice it is often unavailable in our area. If sodium chlorate use is anticipated, make arrangements with a supplier in advance.

Volunteer Wheat Control in Fallow

Volunteer wheat is a host for several economically important pests of wheat, including the wheat curl mite, Hessian fly, and most recently, the Russian wheat aphid. The life cycle of these pests can be broken by destroying volunteer wheat before the emergence of newly planted wheat, thus leaving them without a host plant. Control of volunteer wheat in fallow is a very effective and economical means of preventing disease and insect problems.

Several herbicides are available for volunteer wheat control in fallow. Roundup (1 pt/A), Landmaster (54 oz/A), or Cyclone (1.5 pt/A) may be used to kill emerged volunteer wheat, but none of these treatments will control wheat that germinates after herbicide application. Roundup and Landmaster should be applied in 10 gallons of water per acre or less, and all three herbicides require the addition of a surfactant for top performance.

If residual volunteer wheat control is desired, atrazine 4L (1-2 pt/A) may be used. Soil pH and moisture strongly influence the persistence of atrazine in soil. Lighter rates should be used on sandy, high pH soils in dry areas. The possibility of wheat injury due to atrazine carry-over is always present, depending on precipitation. A burndown treatment (Roundup, Landmaster, or Cyclone) is required if volunteer wheat is emerged at the time of application; atrazine will not control emerged volunteer wheat.

Volunteer wheat may be controlled with fall tillage, however, tillage destroys wheat stubble, leaving the soil susceptible to erosion during the winter and spring. Producers should plan on two tillage operations to control volunteer wheat, as wheat seed may be planted in soil during the first operation and may germinate shortly afterward.

Your 1987 Weed Control Experience

Applicators, dealers, consultants, producers, extension agents--A report on your 1987 weed control experiences would be appreciated. Send us a note or brief report or make a telephone call. Our address is Weed Science, 362 Plant Science Building, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0915. Telephone (402) 472-1527.

Weed Science research is conducted at many locations on and off station. However, in no way can we cover all possible herbicide, weed, soil, and moisture conditions. Your experiences can be helpful. We're interested in results with both new and old products and combinations. Some specific reports we would like to have:

1. Experience with Cobra, Command, Classic, Preview, Scepter, and other new products.
2. Liquid fertilizer as an additive with postemergence herbicides.
3. Effective controls for large velvetleaf.
4. No-till weed control.
5. Weed control in ridge-till.
6. Crop injury.

We'll keep your reports confidential. If you prefer to send us your name and telephone number, we'll call back and visit with you about your weed control successes or failures. In your reports please include information on weed species, weed size, rates, and crop responses.

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