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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-3] [April 8, 1988]

Bob N. Stougarrd

Extension Weed Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Alex Martin

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, amartin2@unl.edu

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Stougarrd, Bob N. and Martin, Alex, "INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-3] [April 8, 1988]" (1988). *Historical Publications in Weed Science and Weed Technology*. 27.
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**INSECT
PLANT DISEASE
WEED SCIENCE****NEWS**

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

No. 88-3
April 8, 1988

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Lawn Weed Control

Postemergence control of dandelions, shepherdspurse, chickweed, and henbit should have been done by now or should be done soon. Granular forms of 2,4-D, Trimec, and similar herbicides are safest to use under most conditions. However, Trimec and other formulations containing dicamba (Banvel) should be used sparingly next to and under trees and shrubs. Turflon from Dow is also labeled for control of many broadleaf weeds. Liquid herbicide formulations should be applied when there is little or no wind movement and with low spray pressure.

Preemergence herbicides for the control of crabgrass should not be applied until soil temperatures get into the 60's. This usually occurs towards the end of April. One indicator is if you see crabgrass germinate next to "early warming sites" such as bare soil or in thin sod areas next to sidewalks and driveways. Then it's time to apply preemergence crabgrass herbicides. Examples of preemergence herbicides for crabgrass include DCPA (Dacthal), benefin (Balan), benefin + trifluralin (Team), bensulide (Betasan), pendimethalin (Prowl), oxadiazon (Ronstar), and siduron (Tupersan). Water-in within 3 days after treatment.

No-Till Weed Control

Weed control is a key to success with no-till crop production. Control of weeds established at planting time as well as later developing weeds is required. New developments make economical, effective weed control programs available for most situations. One approach is to combine a postemergence and a residual herbicide applied at planting time. Another is to make an early preplant application of residual herbicides and eliminate the postemergence herbicide.

Planting Time Treatments

Because of the early planting date with corn, emerged weeds are usually small or not present at planting time. Most preemergence corn
(Continued)



herbicide treatments containing a triazine will control small annual grass and broadleaf weeds. Because of the later planting date with soybeans and sorghum, emerged weeds are more likely to be present. For control of these larger weeds it is usually necessary to add a postemergence herbicide such as Gramoxone or Roundup to the preemergence material.

Early Preplant Treatments

Early preplant herbicide treatments for weed control in no-till have become popular. When is the best time to apply these treatments? Too early an application can be just as bad as too late. The key to timing the application is germination of the weeds.

With early preplant treatments the objective is to have the herbicide in place prior to weed seed germination especially grasses. Broadleaf weeds are not as much of a concern because most treatments include a triazine (atrazine, Bladex, Lexone, Sencor) which will kill emerged broadleaf weeds especially when combined with 2,4-D. Having the herbicide in place 1 to 2 weeks before weed seed germination allows time for rainfall to activate the herbicide before it is needed. Summer annual grasses normally don't germinate in no-till fields before May 1 in east central Nebraska and progressively later northward and westward.

Applying treatments several weeks before weed seed germination can shorten the period of control after germination. This concern applies particularly to shorter-lived herbicides including Bladex, Lexone, and Sencor. With very early applications of these herbicides a decrease in weed control after planting may occur. A split application with one portion early and the other at planting time helps maintain control.

Prowl, and particularly Surflan, are long lasting and require substantial rainfall for activation. Performance of these herbicides benefits from early application as this increases the likelihood of ample rainfall prior to weed seed germination.

No-Till Into Alfalfa Sod

Killing alfalfa with herbicides is more economical than plowing, is very effective, and leaves the soil less subject to erosion. An excellent seedbed results from herbicide-killed sod whether the crop is planted no-till or following light tillage. The most consistent treatment we have evaluated for alfalfa control is 1 qt 2,4-D + 0.5 pt Banvel/A with 2 qt 2,4-D ester/A a close second. The herbicide approach will cost \$5.00-\$6.00/A + application compared to \$10.00-\$15.00 for plowing and seedbed preparation. Alfalfa should be actively growing and have at least 4" of green growth at treatment.

Applications should be made at least 1 week before corn planting and 4 weeks before sorghum planting. Where soybeans are to be planted, Banvel should not be used and 2,4-D should be applied 4 weeks before planting. There is no label for a 2,4-D application prior to soybean planting, however, growers have been successful. These treatments should not be used prior to planting fieldbeans.

Can you combine the alfalfa control treatment with a residual herbicide for annual weed control and save one application? Our experience with atrazine and Bladex suggests that alfalfa control suffers when the treatments are combined.

Bob Stougaard

Bob Stougaard
Extension Weed Specialist

Alex R. Martin

Alex R. Martin
Extension Weed Specialist