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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 89-12] [June 13, 1989]

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Martin, Alex and Stougarrd, Bob N., "INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 89-12] [June 13, 1989]" (1989).
Historical Publications in Weed Science and Weed Technology. 55.
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INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE

NEWS

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No. 89-12
June 13, 1989

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Postemergence Weed Control in Grain Sorghum

Crop growth stage restrictions are an important consideration when choosing a postemergence herbicide for use in sorghum. This year's uneven stands complicate the situation further. Our advice is to gauge treatments based on how the majority of the field develops. Earlier applications may allow lower rates, better coverage, and more effective weed control. Do not cultivate for 5 days prior to or after a herbicide application.

Laddok at 2.4 pt/A plus either oil concentrate or UAN is effective in controlling 2-4 inch broadleaf weeds and can be applied until sorghum heading. A 3.5 pt rate will control taller weeds and help suppress yellow nutsedge and field bindweed. **Atrazine 90 DF** can be applied to completely emerged sorghum at rates from 2.2 to 3.3 lb/A with water as the carrier to control grass and broadleaf weeds less than 1.5 inches tall. A rate of 1.3 lb/A plus oil concentrate can also be used to control broadleaf weeds 4 inches tall after the sorghum has reached the 3-leaf stage. **Buctril** applications at 1 pt/A alone or with 1/2 to 1 1/5 lb ai atrazine should be delayed until the sorghum plant is in the 3rd leaf stage. When using the 1 1/2 pt rate of **Buctril**, applications should be delayed until the 4th leaf stage. **Buctril** applications can be made up to the boot stage. **Banvel** applications at 1/2 pt/A alone or with 1/2 to 1 1/4 lb ai of atrazine should also be delayed until the sorghum is in the 3rd leaf stage. **Banvel** can be applied to sorghum up to 15 inches tall. Use drop nozzles if the sorghum is over 8 inches tall. **2,4-D amine** at 1 pt/A or **2,4-D ester** at 3/4 to 1 1/4 pt/A can be used on 6 to 15 inch tall sorghum. Use drop nozzles if the sorghum is over 8 inches tall.

Small Grain Harvest Aid

Thin stands coupled with the recent rains may lead to excessive weed growth in ripening small grains. Broadleaf weeds, especially, can cause serious harvesting problems. **2,4-D ester** at 1 quart per acre (4 lbs per



gallon material) will knock down and dry up most broadleaf weeds. Not all brands of 2,4-D are labeled for this use. Applications made after the hard dough stage of the grain will not affect grain yield. By waiting until the green color is gone from the nodes (joints), stem brittleness and breakage can be avoided. It usually takes 7-10 days for the 2,4-D to knock down and dry up the weeds.

Pasture and Range Weed Control

Normally, the later part of June is the best time to treat broom snakeweed, vervain, goldenrod, sagebrush, snow-on-the-mountain, and western ragweed. There is a tendency to treat on the late side rather than too early. A good guideline for treating most perennials is to mow or apply the herbicide when the weeds are in the early flower bud stage. Biennial thistles are an exception and should be treated in the rosette stage.

The most commonly used treatments are 2,4-D ester and a combination of 2,4-D + Banvel. Crossbow is now cleared for use on pastures and Tordon is available for tough weeds. Grazing restrictions are minimal with the exception of milking dairy animals. Uneven terrain often makes a uniform herbicide application difficult in grazingland. A marking system helps eliminate the missed strips that often show up. Exercise care when making applications near sensitive crops, gardens, windbreaks, and farmsteads. Injurious drift can occur for a distance of one-half mile or more.

Lawn Weed Control

Summer months are not the time to apply herbicides for perennial broadleaf weed control in turf. Dry, hot weather reduces the effectiveness of most postemergence herbicides and control suffers. Wait until late September to early October to control perennial broadleaf weed problems. In addition to lack of control, high temperatures and wind speed increase the chances of drift and volatility problems which will cause injury to sensitive plants. This is especially true for materials that contain dicamba (Banvel), but 2,4-D and MCPP (mecoprop) can also cause drift injury.

Certain annual broadleaf weeds can be effectively controlled during the summer. Now is the time to make a second application of Dacthal to provide continued control of prostrate spurge. Pendimethalin does provide control of prostrate spurge and oxalis. If pendimethalin was applied in the spring these weed problems should be under control. However, a second application of pendimethalin is recommended to provide extended grass control in lawns. This also applies to Dacthal, Balan, and Team. Mow the lawn prior to making applications of these products and water in as soon as possible. Waiting more than 3 days will result in loss of the herbicide and reduced grass control.

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