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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 89-04] [April 11, 1989]

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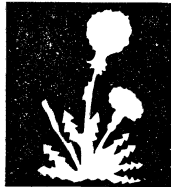
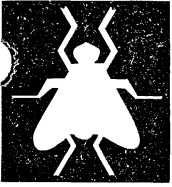
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INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE

NEWS

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No. 89-04
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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. It's a good idea not to remove clippings until the lawn has been mowed at least four times because of residual herbicide concentrations. If clippings are removed, they should not be used as a mulch around trees or flower beds.

Preemergence herbicides for the control of crabgrass should not be applied until soil temperatures get into the 60's. This usually occurs toward 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 (PRE-M), oxadiazon (Ronstar), and siduron (Tupersan). Water in within 3 days after treatment. Granular formulations or products which are impregnated on dry fertilizer work best. Make sure that the lawn is raked and mowed short prior to application. This reduces interception by plant material and allows more product to get to the target site.

Keep in mind that the best defense against weeds in turf is to use cultural practices which promote a healthy, competitive lawn. Herbicides only provide temporary relief.



Musk and Plumeless Thistle

Check pastures and rangeland for musk and plumeless thistle. Now is the perfect time to apply herbicides for their control. Thistles are most susceptible to herbicides when they are in the rosette stage. Musk and plumeless thistle grow under cool conditions. Therefore, herbicides are slower acting but still effective. It's important to apply herbicides before the thistles bolt. It's much better to treat a thistle rosette on a 50° F day than a bolted plant on a 70° F day.

In eastern and southern Nebraska, apply treatments by late April. In the northern and western portion of Nebraska, effective control can be obtained 10 days to 2 weeks later. Effective treatments include 1 1/2 to 2 quarts 2,4-D ester or 1 quart 2,4-D + 1/2 pint Banvel or 6 to 8 ounces of Tordon 22K per acre.

All of the suggested herbicides are injurious to trees, shrubs, windbreaks, gardens, ornamentals, alfalfa, and other broadleaf crops. Make applications when there is little or no wind movement. Tordon is a restricted use herbicide and should only be applied by certified applicators.

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. These treatments should not be used prior to planting fieldbeans or soybeans.

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.

Nebraska Weed Tour

Mark your calendar. The 1989 Nebraska Weed Tour will be held the week of June 19. We will be viewing Weed Science research across the state during this tour. Details will be provided in a later newsletter.



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