

## CONTROLLING WILD OATS WITH PRE-EMERGENCE PRODUCTS

**C**ontrolling wild oats is a challenge for most farmers. While there are several options available for controlling this troublesome weed, farmers are fortunate to have both pre-emergence and post-emergence herbicide options available. The fall season offers producers flexibility for timing of application which provides producers time management possibilities.

Of the available pre-emergence products, Avadex, Edge, Fortress and Treflan are the most familiar. According to a weed scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, *all these products are most effective when they are applied in the fall* using two incorporations in conventional tillage systems. In Min-Till and No-Till Operations, broadcasting the products late in the fall followed by harrowing to ensure good Herbicide and Soil contact has been shown to be effective.

If farmers leave weed control until the spring and then weather conditions prevent an application procedure, the competition from weeds, particularly wild oats, will reduce yield and affect the bottom line.

Seed placement is important when using these products. Wheat should be seeded below the treated layer when using Avadex and Fortress. The advantage of these products is they control the weeds prior to seeding which reduces competition.

A fall application helps with time management by spreading the workload out. Research has proven that uncontrolled weeds can reduce yield. If farmers leave weed control until the spring and then weather conditions prevent an application procedure, the competition from weeds, particularly wild oats, will reduce yield and affect the bottom line.

By using a pre-emergence treatment, farmers can reduce the risk of weed competition and give

themselves more time in the spring to ensure the crop gets a good start.

Research completed by John O'Donovan in Alberta suggests that a wild oats density of as little as five plants per square metre will reduce yields by two to five percent, depending on the stage of development of the weed. Kirkland backs up this research with some of his own. He contends that losses due to wild oats along with additional production costs takes an estimated \$300 million annually out of the pockets of western Canadian farmers. To save that kind of money, farmers may find it worthwhile to consider using a pre-emergence product.

Using a pre-emergence product for wild oats control is beneficial in several ways. *The time management factor alone can save farmers money and stress.* You can reduce risk and manage your time effectively by applying a pre-emergence Product in the fall. In addition, the Product 'Edge' for example is a Group 3 herbicide which offers farmers another mode of action to reduce the chance of developing herbicide resistant wild oats.

The method of application may sound complex but it offers farmers a lot of options and flexibility. In the tough world of wild oats control, pre-emergence products offer some different options that *keep the weeds in check, reduce the competition with the crop and allow farmers to manage their time effectively.*



Photo: Gowan Canada

Ray Agro carries a variety of Pre-Emerge Herbicides and we'd be happy to answer any questions.

Source:

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