

FAQ: Desiccation or Pre-Harvest Glyphosate Application

Is there a difference between desiccation and pre-harvest herbicide application?

Yes, and the use is a matter of preference. True desiccants are harvest management tools that rapidly kill above ground growth of crops and weeds, allowing for rapid dry down and an earlier harvest. *Desiccants will not give long-term weed control* and any late moisture may cause both the weeds and the crop to start to re-grow.

Pre-harvest glyphosate application is generally used for perennial weed control. It can be used as a harvest management tool for dry down but the effects take much longer to appear. Pre-harvest glyphosate is a good tool for long-term control of perennial weeds such as Canada thistle, quackgrass, toadflax and dandelion.

When would I use desiccation or pre-harvest glyphosate?

Desiccation with products such containing the active ingredient Diquat in pulses allows the crop to mature evenly for a faster harvest, which can reduce the risk of losing quality. Desiccation will not help immature seed to mature. Another reason for using Diquat in peas is for the control of wild buckwheat. Glyphosate does not work well with wild buckwheat control whereas Diquat does a better job.

Pre-harvest glyphosate provides control of perennial weeds, and can help to even out maturity and dry down cereal crops for straight cutting, however this will take time.

Can I desiccate or use pre-harvest herbicide if I want to use my crop for seed?

Desiccants such as Diquat on peas are registered for seed production. Glyphosate should not be applied to any crop that is to be used for seed production because pre-harvest glyphosate applications can cause germination and possibly vigor problems in the spring. The seed may germinate but the seedling may be stunted and deformed. Seed may have good germination in the fall but poor germination in the spring. Therefore, it is good practice to make sure you do a germination test again in the spring. Another consideration is that *maltsters generally reject seed that has been treated with pre-harvest glyphosate.*

Contact your local Grain Buyer for Information on MRL's (maximum residue levels) before you apply any Pre-Harvest Herbicide.

Can I use treated grain or straw for feed?

Both glyphosate and Diquat treated crops can be used

Application at moisture levels above 30% will likely increase the residue level, which may lead to unmarketable grain.

for animal feed.

When should I apply glyphosate or Diquat?

Glyphosate should be applied when there is 30% or less moisture content in the seed within the greenest parts of the field. If application takes place when the greenest parts of the field are not mature enough, residue within the green seed could contaminate the entire lot. In cereals, the seed will be firm and with reasonable pressure your thumbnail will leave a dent in the seed. Application at moisture levels above 30% will likely increase the residue level which may lead to unmarketable grain. It should also be noted that longer storage time after the crop has been cut does not reduce residue levels.

In peas, Diquat should be applied when peas are reaching maturity which happens when the bottom 33% of pods are ripe and rattle when shaken, the middle 40% of pods are yellow, and the upper 30% of pods are turning yellow. With green pea, the vein pattern in the upper-most pods is recognizable and 75 to 90% of the pods will have turned to a yellow tan color.

The pre-harvest-intervals for most products are between 4-14 days. Performance of a desiccant depends on weather, especially temperature.

Ray Agro carries a range of pre-harvest herbicides. I am happy to help if you have any questions or you require field scouting for advice on application timing.

Source:

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