

POST HARVEST WEED CONTROL

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Post Harvest weed Control

Highlights:

- Weed control of winter annuals and problem perennial weeds
- When to apply herbicides
- Herbicide options

With harvest just beginning it is not too early to consider post harvest weed control. With this year's conditions it is an excellent year for control against winter annuals and perennial weeds such as: shepherd's purse, chickweed, Canada thistle, quackgrass and dandelions. These weeds begin to form new leaves in the fall, and persist through the winter in that state depleting soil moisture and nutrients. Making them highly competitive against newly seeded crops. With the switch to zero tillage the most effective way to control these weeds is a late fall application of herbicide.

Things to consider for post harvest Spraying

Q: When is the best time for fall application?

A: It is most effective to spray for weeds when they have some green, and are actively growing, this timing is most effective because the weeds are still small and more susceptible to application.

Q: What are some herbicide options?

A: Herbicide options are very economical in the fall, chemicals such as: 2,4-D, and MCPA offer good control, and safe for most crops the following year. Other options can include glyphosate used in mixtures, dicamba, tribenuron-methyl and bromoxynil. It is important to know your problem annuals so you can choose herbicides accordingly.

In Conclusion:

Winter annuals are persistent and becoming an increased problem with the push towards reduced tillage. With the right weather conditions a fall spray can greatly reduce weed competition the following spring.

