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Quick Burndown Programs for No-till

Due to recent warm, wet weather and aggressive winter weed growth, burndown applications have not been applied in many no-till fields. Planting season is here and there is urgency expressed by many growers for a quick burndown to allow soils to dry out and planters to run through the field as soon as possible. Typically, translocated herbicides such as glyphosate and 2,4-D work somewhat slower than a contact product such as Gramoxone, unless daytime air temperatures are in the high 70's or 80's. Under "typical" spring weather conditions with daytime air temperatures in the 60's and low 70's, the Gramoxone-based programs will provide a quicker dessication of weed biomass, but may not be as effective as glyphosate on some of the larger perennial and annual weeds. There are a couple herbicide programs that fit this scenario where a quick dessication is desired.

In corn production, consider the use of Gramoxone + atrazine or an atrazine premix or Lumax/Lexar. 2,4-D can be added to this mix to improve control of dandelion and horseweed (marestail) but one should wait at least 7 days to plant corn if 2,4-D is used.

In soybean production, consider the use of Gramoxone + Sencor (or products containing Sencor such as Canopy, Domain, or Boundary), Gramoxone + Gangster, or glyphosate + Valor or Aim. We have observed that the addition of Valor or Aim to glyphosate can speed up the process of weed dessication compared to glyphosate alone, but they won't dessicate the vegetation as quickly as the Gramoxone-based treatments. As mentioned above, 2,4-D can be added to all of these treatments to improve control of dandelion, horseweed (marestail), giant ragweed and lambsquarters, but users should be aware of the proper interval before soybean can be planted which is 7 days for the 1 pt/A rate.

For the Gramoxone treatments to be most effective, they should be applied in at least 15 GPA carrier volume to achieve adequate coverage and the higher end of the labeled rate range should be used if most of the weeds are 6 inches tall or more.

For more information on no-till burndown weed control programs, see pages 26-43 of the 2006 Weed Control Guide for Ohio and Indiana at this website <http://www.btny.purdue.edu/Pubs/WS/WS-16/>

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