

Avoiding herbicide damage in corn

Overview

Pre- or post-emergence corn herbicide application can cause crop injury. Typical causes include poor application timing, improper application rate, carryover from the previous year's application or residue in spray tanks, lines and filters. Fortunately, in most cases yield loss is minimal and crops can recover, but spotting and preventing injury are key.

What you should know

- Many visual signs of herbicide injury can be confused with other issues, like pests or nutrient deficiencies. Look for patterns: Striping and geometric shapes are usually man-made.
- Misapplication of herbicides outside the labeled window can cause issues with germination, ear development and pollen shed. Stressing plants at specific stages of growth can also negatively impact ear formation and yield potential.
- Excessive herbicide use offers no benefits and can be detrimental. Apply herbicides in the right amount, under the right conditions and at the right stage of growth.
- Common causes of crop injury include drift from nearby fields and leftover herbicide residues in spraying equipment and nozzles.

Action steps

1. **Properly diagnose damage:** Review timing of recent herbicide applications, herbicides applied (this year and last) and other fields in the area exhibiting similar injury.
2. **Plan applications:** Review the label for best practices, including the appropriate stage of growth for application.
3. **Follow product labels:** Carefully read herbicide labels, for both application timing and rate and mixing instructions.
4. **Maintain clean spray equipment:** Thoroughly rinse equipment when switching between crops and/or herbicide active ingredients.
5. **Prevent drift:** Check weather conditions before applying.

For more information, contact:

NuTech
Seed[®]

www.nutechseed.com
1-888-647-3478



These corn plants show visual characteristics of herbicide injury.



30-Second Summary

- Herbicide application can cause corn crop injury.
- Injury is often caused by:
 - Incorrect application timing/rate
 - Carryover from previous application
 - Residue in spray equipment
 - Drift
- Herbicide injury signs can often be mistaken for other issues, like pests.
- Follow herbicide use directions to avoid crop injury.

NOTES:
