

Fall herbicide applications

Overview

Troublesome weeds sometimes get a head start in the fall. Although tillage can take care of problem weeds, it isn't always preferred or even possible. A well-timed fall herbicide application can prevent weeds and save time during the busy spring season.

What you should know

- Fall herbicide applications often are a good solution for challenging weeds, such as marestalk, especially if the weeds are difficult to control in-crop.
- Fall herbicides can also control winter annual weeds that harbor insects and increase unwanted nematodes. Other benefits include better control of cool-season perennials, legumes and cool-season grasses, if rotations allow, and better activity of glyphosate on established dandelion and winter annuals compared with application in spring when temperatures are cooler.
- The cooler temperature and more stable weather in fall make it an excellent time to use phenoxy herbicides, such as dicamba, to minimize off-target movement and drift. Residual herbicide applications should wait until spring to catch any late weed escapes.
- Targeting problem fields first and timing application between a killing frost and a hard freeze help maximize fall herbicide effectiveness.

Action steps

1. **Evaluate your options:** Fall applications are a good alternative in reduced tillage or no-tillage programs.
2. **Select herbicides:** A fall burndown combination of glyphosate and 2,4-D, or glyphosate and a combination of phenoxy herbicides, is often effective.
3. **Time the application:** Wait at least two weeks after harvest. Residue can reduce herbicide coverage, and winter annuals might not have emerged at harvest. Start applications in fields that have had weed problems in-crop.
4. **Use correct additives:** In cool weather (less than 60° F), additives help ensure better herbicide uptake.



Fall herbicide applications are good options to manage difficult-to-control weeds, such as marestalk.



30-Second Summary

- Challenging weeds are often best managed with a fall herbicide application, especially for reduced or no-tillage programs.
- Select the right combination of herbicides and apply at least two weeks post-harvest, but before a hard freeze.
- If weather is cool, be sure to use proper additives to improve herbicide uptake.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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