

ALBAUGH IN ACTION

FALL BURNDOWN HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS IN WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Once growers harvest their crop, then there's nothing left to do until next spring, right? Weeds never take a break. They continue to grow, develop, and produce seed even after harvest. For improved weed control, many growers have turned to fall herbicide "burndown" applications. Fall burndown helps to control unwanted weeds and vegetation that could impact the crop next season. Fields with heavy weed populations are excellent candidates for a fall burndown application.

Post-harvest/fall herbicide applications can help improve overall crop management and increase crop yields the following season. Other key benefits include:

- Helping to control small-seeded winter annual weeds like mustard, chickweed, henbit, Kochia, and shepherd's purse and reduce weed competition.
- Helping to control problem perennial weeds like marestail, dandelion, bindweed, Canada thistle, and others. As an example, during the fall and winter, newly germinating marestail is small and stays in the rosette stage, which is easily controlled. In the spring, any small, newly emerging marestail can be cleaned up.
- Proactive management of serious weed pests like common waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. These summer annuals can still emerge after harvest and produce seed in as few as 5-6 weeks. By targeting these weeds with a burndown application, and before they produce seed, prevents them from adding to the weed seed bank in soils and becoming more of a problem in the spring.
- Taking advantage of better weather conditions, days that are more suitable for spraying, and smaller weed size for better control. Soils that are drier in the fall also help reduce compaction due to sprayer traffic.
- Spreading the overall workload and giving growers more flexibility in the spring. Fall weed populations, coupled with wet weather in the spring, can delay herbicide applications and planting, resulting in tough-to-control heavy, dense weed populations.
- Improved soil temperatures and moisture in the spring, which help soils to warm faster, and allow for earlier field work and planting.
- Less weed competition in the spring, helping get crops off to a strong start with good stands and improved early-season crop development.
- Control of weed and crop residue where certain insect pests, nematodes, and diseases may overwinter.

Control recommendations

Fall burndown applications containing Gly Star® herbicides mixed with Dicamba HD® 5 or Dicamba DMA Salt 5 are recommended for broad-spectrum control of grass and broadleaves (including some resistant biotypes). Both dicamba formulations are highly concentrated and provide more efficient transportation and handling for growers.

Fall burndown herbicide applications are just one tool for weed management. While they don't completely eliminate the need for residual and postemergence herbicide programs in the spring, they can help those spring applications to be more time- and cost-efficient, promoting earlier fieldwork and earlier planting, maximizing crop growth and yield potential.



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