

Post Rock Extension District Column

Week of August 7-11, 2023

By Sandra L. Wick

K-State Research and Extension-Post Rock District
Crop Production Agent

Plan your pre-emergence weed control in your wheat ground!

Well, we certainly have had some variable conditions this summer with temperatures and moisture! However, even though producers are finishing up their wheat harvest quite a bit later than normal years, they are still preparing for the 2024 wheat crop with variety selection and ground preparation. Stay tuned and I will share with you some management guidelines to remember about weed management in your wheat ground.

Even though it has been extremely dry in the central corridor of Kansas, weeds are still appearing in wheat stubble. Pre-emergence herbicides with residual activity are an important component of high-yielding cropping systems according to Dr. Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension, Weed Science specialist. These herbicides tend to be used less frequently in wheat production compared to other cropping systems in Kansas, but residual herbicides applied prior to wheat emergence can be part of a good weed management system in wheat production. A variety of products for this use are provided in the 2023 KSU Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops publication in the “wheat” section.

Lancaster emphasizes that most residual herbicides labeled for pre-emergence application in wheat are Group 2 (ALS-inhibiting) herbicides, which are associated with herbicide resistant populations of kochia, marestalk (horseweed), bushy wallflower, flixweed, henbit, and brome species in Kansas. Products in Groups 14 (the PPO-inhibiting herbicides) and 15 (the long-chain fatty acid inhibiting herbicides) are also labeled; however, they are generally more dependent on rainfall for activation than the Group 2 herbicides.

Herbicides without residual activity may be applied with or without residual herbicides in the weeks prior to planting wheat. Older products include the Group 2 herbicides such as Amber, Olympus, and Pre-Pare, as well as Group 4 (plant growth regulating) herbicides like 2,4-D, dicamba, or fluroxypyr. Lancaster points out that it is especially important to be aware of planting interval restrictions for Group 4 herbicides, which range from 10 to 45 days.

“Lastly, when selecting pre-emergence herbicides for use in wheat production, keep in mind that many of these products are also labeled for use in emerged wheat,” points out Lancaster. Unless using a planned split-application, avoid repeated use of products from the same herbicide group to slow the development of herbicide-resistant weed populations in your fields.

For additional information, see the “2023 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, and Noncropland” guide available online at <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/chemweedguide.pdf> or at any of our Post Rock Extension District offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center for a

paper copy.

If you have additional questions on weed management in your wheat, give me a call or stop by any of our Post Rock District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Sandra may be contacted at swick@ksu.edu or by calling Smith Center, 282-6823, Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension" along with our weekly Ag Newsletter at <https://www.postrock.k-state.edu/crops/ag-news/index.html>. Also remember our website is www.postrock.ksu.edu and my twitter account is @PRDcrops.