Weed Control Notes

EXTENSION DIVISION VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

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(Revised)

WEED CONTROL IN ORCHARDGRASS FOR SEED

Control Series 38

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Wild onion or garlic and quackgrass are serious weed problems to the orchardgrass seed producer. The Virginia seed law restricts the sale of orchardgrass seed containing 5 or more aerial bulblets of onion or garlic per ounce. It prohibits the sale of any orchardgrass seed contaminated with quackgrass. Some states will not recommend Virginia-grown orchardgrass seed due to onion or garlic bulblets. These noxious weed seeds cannot be effectively removed in the cleaning process.

CONTROL OF WILD GARLIC AND ONION AND BROADLEAVED WEEDS

2,4-D: The use of herbicides is effective in reducing the number of onions or garlic in seed fields. A long range program using 2,4-D can eliminate them completely. Also, the 2,4-D does an excellent job in controlling broadleaved weeds that use fertilizer and moisture which cause lower seed yields.

Many broadleaved weeds can be controlled with 1 lb acid equivalent of 2,4-D (amine or low volatile ester form) in 20 gal of water per acre. Apply in late fall or early spring when temperatures will reach 60° F or above during the day.

Wild onion or garlic may be reduced significantly by the application of 1.5 to 2 lb acid equivalent of a low volatile ester formulation of 2,4-D in 20 gal of water per acre. Apply in the fall or early spring when the temperature is 60° F or above. The spring application should be made before the orchardgrass has started growing rapidly. Applications made after orchardgrass has started to joint may reduce yields. Annual applications for 3-4 years are necessary to eliminate all garlic or onion. Keep dairy animals off of 2,4-D sprayed areas for 7 days after treatment.

Prevent spray drift:

1. Spraying only when wind is less than 5 mph.
2. Keeping sprayer pressure between 20-30 psi.
3. Using proper size nozzles (8003 and larger or equivalent).
4. Keeping spray nozzles as close to ground as feasible.
5. Calibrating sprayer. Find out how much water your sprayer is delivering at a safe speed. Adjust forward speed and nozzle tip size so that the amount of water suggested is being applied at 20-30 psi. Use minimum spray boom height that will insure good coverage.

QUACKGRASS CONTROL

Prevent quackgrass seed from contaminating orchardgrass seed by being positive that no areas containing quackgrass are harvested. This requires early identification. In March or early April, or late November, look for small areas of low-growing grass, darker green than orchardgrass. Look for 2 small appendages (auricles) which clasp or encircle the stem where the leaf touches it. Either chop these infested areas or mark them so that they will not be harvested.

TRADE AND BRAND NAMES ARE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMATION AND THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE DOES NOT GUARANTEE NOR WARRANT THE STANDARD OF THE PRODUCT, NOR DOES IT IMPLY APPROVAL OF THE PRODUCT TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHERS WHICH MAY ALSO BE SUITABLE.

KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.
2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and way from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.
3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the container.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.

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