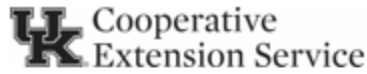


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Farm Update

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION

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Italian Ryegrass Control in Wheat and Corn

Dr. Travis Legleighter, Extension weed control specialist at the University of Kentucky, prepared the following article on the control of the challenging Italian ryegrass, which remains the most problematic weed in Kentucky wheat and no-till corn acres. While it has not infested this area as it has in the southern tier counties, Italian Ryegrass is appearing in more fields for the first time each year.

Control of this problematic weed starts in the fall when the majority of our populations begin to emerge. In our no-till corn acres, we have traditionally relied on spring burndown applications for control of winter annuals, including ryegrass. While this strategy is highly effective against most winter annual weed species, Italian ryegrass is now challenging this strategy as spring burndown failures increase on an annual basis. The use of a fall burndown and/or residual can be a step in the right direction for a complete management program for this problematic weed.

In our wheat acres, the adoption of pyroxasulfone-based products such as Anthem Flex, Fierce EZ, and Zidua has shown great promise for controlling fall-emerging ryegrass populations. While this strategy has been successful, there are concerns that we are pushing ryegrass populations towards spring-emerging cohorts. Thus, we need to begin monitoring

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emergence of ryegrass populations in our wheat fields and implement programs that can capture control of this problematic weed at its peak emergence pattern.

Recommendations for Italian ryegrass Control in Wheat. Knowledge of the emergence patterns of ryegrass in your wheat field can be extremely beneficial in choosing an effective program for controlling Italian ryegrass. Fields with primarily fall-emerging populations of Italian ryegrass should be managed with either Anthem Flex applied PRE or Fierce EZ applied 14 Days Preplant. It should be expected that some escapes will occur and an application of a Axial Bold can still be beneficial on populations still susceptible to this postemergence herbicide.

Fields with a mixture of a fall and spring emerging population should be managed with a split application of Anthem Flex. The inclusion of metribuzin with the postemergence application of Anthem Flex can increase control of any ryegrass escaping the initial residual application. Again, the late spring application of Axial Bold is still beneficial on populations that are still susceptible. It is not recommended to split application of Fierce EZ.

Regardless of whether you choose to use Anthem Flex, Zidua, or Fierce EZ; these residual herbicides must receive an activating rainfall shortly after application to successfully suppress ryegrass emergence. The application of any of the three residual products to a dry soil seedbed followed by a heavy rainfall event can result in significant crop injury. Soil moisture conditions and rainfall forecast should be monitored closely when planning the timing of wheat planting and applications of residual herbicides for Italian ryegrass control.

Recommendations for Italian ryegrass control for fields to be planted in no-till corn next year. An early fall emerging population of Italian ryegrass can be removed with a simple fall burndown application of either glyphosate or paraquat (Gramoxone). Unfortunately, a lot of the

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Italian ryegrass in our area seems to be a mixed emergence pattern of both fall and spring emergence. The use of residual herbicides in the fall is the most beneficial way to prevent spring emergence.

Farmers dealing with a highly suspected or confirmed glyphosate-resistant Italian ryegrass population should apply a fall application of a tank mixture of paraquat (Gramoxone) plus either Boundary or Helmet MTZ. We know that paraquat and metribuzin have synergistic activity on Italian ryegrass; thus, the use of a residual premix with metribuzin will be beneficial.

Regardless of fall applications, plan to follow up with a spring burndown application of either glyphosate or paraquat to control any escapes or spring-emerging plants.

Recommendations for Italian Ryegrass Control in No-till Soybean. On acres rotating to full-season soybean, it is recommended to use Command as the fall residual herbicide. Command represents an alternative herbicide site of action for control of Italian ryegrass and breaks the heavy reliance on group 15 herbicides for ryegrass control on wheat and corn acres.

Daviess County Plot Results

Several of the Daviess County grain variety yield demonstration plots have been harvested. Results are available on my website at <https://daviess.mgcafe.uky.edu/anr>. Complete plot books will be available in November.

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