

BATTLE RIVER AGRONOMY UPDATE

Pre Seed Burnoff tips

As usual, we face less than ideal spraying conditions as we move into seeding time this spring. It seems to be lining up to be a late spring and the temptation is going to be to skip the burnoff in order to get rolling with the seeding. Here are some things to keep in mind if you are forced into doing this.

The frosts we have had this week will not kill the volunteer canola, let alone winter annuals that are out there. Volunteer canola that emerges this time of year is hardened off and can often survive frosts of up to -6 C or colder. As soon as these plants get a couple of days of sunshine and warm weather they will continue with their lifecycle.

There is still an opportunity to control the weeds before the crop emerges if you do go ahead with seeding without spraying. Post seed spraying must occur before the ground crack occurs or you can do considerable damage to the emerging crop. Even crops that have not visibly broken ground have shown up to 10% stand reduction as a result of spraying too late.

Coverage is everything! Glyphosate is a product that we know performs well using low water volumes. However, today the emphasis is on using multiple modes of action to control weeds. This means that whenever possible, other products are being added to glyphosate in the tank for the burnoff operation. Many of these products perform better with higher water volumes. Consider increasing your water volume if you are tank mixing with products that depend more on contact than translocation within the plant.

Another thing to check to ensure you are getting good coverage is your boom height. If you are using nozzles designed to minimize drift, it's important to understand that they produce coarser droplets, especially at the outside edges of the spray pattern. A typical 110 degree nozzle should be set so that it has 100% overlap to account for this. Check your pattern using the lowest likely pressure you will be using in the field and set your boom height accordingly. Better coverage means a more consistent result and fewer problems to address during your in-crop weed control program.

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