

Producing oat without in crop pesticides

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Pesticide Free Production (PFP) is a registered trademark of the University of Manitoba. PFP crops are non-GMO crops, that have not been treated with pesticides from the time of crop emergence until the time of marketing. In addition, such crops cannot be grown where residual pesticides are considered to be commercially active. The goal of this form of integrated pest management is to create new market type but without the severe restrictions of organic production systems. PFP oat production was begun in 2000 with the establishment of all phases of a wheat-canola, PFP oat and pea rotation under zero tillage conditions. In addition the check treatment there were five levels of weed management including combinations of chaff collection and fall harrowing. Delaying oat planting until May 20-24th was common for all oat treatments. To this point yield, dockage and grain quality of PFP oat are equal to conventional production. PFP oat is not significantly weedier than conventional production. This may not be surprising in that oat is a highly competitive crop. The pea crop following the PFP oat crop was not weedier than the conventional production system. The use of surface applied trifluralin combined with chaff collection and fall disturbance of the soil prior to the pea crop had the lowest prespray weed counts and in some seasons the highest crop yields. Oat production without the use of pesticides is possible without sacrificing oat yield or yield of the subsequent crop providing normal weed management practices are possible in other crops and a sound crop rotation is maintained.