

Fall Control of Dandelions (*taraxacum officinale*).....Don't wait too Long

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Abstract

The trial was conducted near Saskatoon, Sk.(2001), Scott, Sk.(2002) and Colonsay, Sk.(2004). Treatments were applied in September or October. All fall treatments received an application of glyphosate at 450 gai/ha 3 days prior to planting. Treatments were 1) *glyphosate @ 900 gai/ha* Sep. or Oct. or Pre-seed. 2) *2,4-D ester @ 840 gai/ha* Sep. or Oct. 3) *2,4-D ester @ 1120 gai/ha* Sep. or Oct. 4) Express[®] - *tribenuron methyl @ 7.5 gai/ha* Sep. or Oct. 5) Express Pack[®] - *tribenuron methyl @ 7.5 gai/ha + 2,4-D ester @ 420 gai/ha* Sep. or Oct. 6) Spectrum[®] - *florasulam @ 5 gai + clopyralid @75 gai + MCPA @ 420 gai/ha* Sep. or Oct. 7) Amitrol 240[®] - *Amitrol @ 960 gai/ha* Pre-seed. Observations: Sept. applications of Express[®], Express Pack[®] and Spectrum[®] controlled dandelions through all rating periods from May 11 to Aug. 11. Sept. applications of glyphosate @900 gai/ha controlled dandelion through July 8. Oct application of glyphosate controlled dandelion through June 9 only. The spring application of glyphosate did not control dandelion. Spring applied Amitrol 240[®] suppressed dandelions through June. Sept. applications of glyphosate @ 900 gai/ha, Express Pack[®] and Spectrum[®] significantly reduced dandelion count from the untreated check as assessed on May 13, 2004. Sept. application of Express[®], Express Pack[®], Spectrum[®] and Oct. application of Spectrum[®] and 2,4-D ester @ 1120 gai/ha and spring applied Amitrol 240[®] significantly reduced dandelion count on Sept. 29, 2004. Highest wheat yields were achieved with Sept. applications of glyphosate @ 900 gai/ha, Express[®], Express Pack[®], Spectrum[®] and the Oct. application of Spectrum[®]. Mean yield of all Sept. and Oct applications was 247% and 177% of the untreated check, respectively. Overall, dandelion control declined over the growing season due to regrowth of existing plants or germination of new dandelions. Conclusions: Fall treatment for control of dandelion should be applied in September for best results. Express[®], Express Pack[®] and Spectrum[®] applied in September supplied the longest and most consistent control of dandelions. Long-term control of dandelion will not be achieved with a one-time treatment.