

Managing Clearfield™ Technologies on Our Farm

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As I give my remarks regarding Clearfield technologies on our farm, I would ask attendees to recognize that what we do on our farm with our conditions may not work for other areas. With such a diverse province in terms of soil types and climate, crops grown and management can be different. Overall planning on our farm begins with a four or five year rotation.

Year 1: oilseed – Invigor Canola; sunflower

Year 2: cereal- barley

Year 3: pulse – peas; pinto beans; lentils

Year 4: cereal – wheat; oats

Year 5: flax

Other crops that we grow include soybeans, white millet and canary seed.

It is a real challenge for me to find a profitable crop some years, and I admit to straying from this rotation when pure economics dictate what crops that I feel will pay the bills for the year. Generally I believe this rotation is sustainable for our farm with the weed and disease control program we use. In reference to the Clearfield technologies or Imazethapyr (Imi.), we have used this chemical for many years. The main use on our farm has been on Odyssey (peas); Absolute (Clearfield canola); and Pursuit (pinto beans).

New options for Imi. application, may include Clearfield lentils (registered); Clearfield sunflowers (in the future); and soybeans (Pursuit is registered in Manitoba but not Saskatchewan.). The ability to use Imi. products on these later crops would be welcome, as few chemical choices are available now.

We have generally been happy with Imi. use on our farm since we found it's chemical strengths and weaknesses. With farming, "good judgment is learned through bad experiences." When working with Imi. we have found several actions, which we feel help the crop prospects.

Spray early: Odyssey is to be sprayed on peas at the 1 to 6 above ground node stage. Peas can be at the 6 above ground node stage and not appear very tall. We have sprayed on the later side and experienced crop yellowing. As Odyssey has soil uptake, earlier spraying seems to be most effective.

Seed heavy: We feel in peas and pinto beans that a full crop-canopy makes weed control easier.

Use full rate: Odyssey is weak on Kochia, but when we seed fairly heavy and use full chemical rates, we do have acceptable control.

Necessary use of fall glyphosate: A fall 'burn off' for peas and lentil crops make weed control easier. Canada thistle can be a real problem in peas and lentils and the Imi is not

going to control them. Because beans are planted in late May, a mid-May burn-off works well for the pinto beans when the weeds are actively growing.

Group 2 herbicides: We have cut out all other Group 2 herbicides where we are using an Imi. product in the rotation. We feel that Imi. application in special crops is very important, and take serious the notion of trying to do what we can, to delay herbicide resistance. For our farm, this meant stopping using Group 2 broadleaf sprays on our wheat, oats and barley. I believe that with Clearfield lentils coming on stream, it is going to be very important to be careful how we use the Imi. in order to maintain their long-term use.

Clearfield Wheat: On our farm we have not seen the need grow Clearfield wheat, as we are satisfied with weed control methods for conventional varieties.

Clearfield Canola: We have had great success growing Clearfield canola. When we began having a volunteer canola problem in our peas, we went to Liberty Link canola with some Roundup Ready Canola at times. Again saving the Imi. for the pulses.

Pursuit on beans: Pinto beans are not a very competitive crop, and early spraying is a must. Normally we would use Basagran on our pintos. If we had wild buckwheat appear in the beans, Pursuit worked well when the buckwheat was small in size. We would spray the beans with a grass killer separately, and usually have to do it twice, as there can be a lot of volunteer cereal appear late in the beans open-canopy.

Rotational plans: We are tracking weed problems in individual fields, from year to year, to have a plan to get control of the problem with the least cost and simplest means.

I would like to acknowledge my wife Carmen and my parents Leroy and Jennifer who as a team with me help keep the farm operating.