



Winter Wheat: Weed Management Action Timeline

Dr. Joseph Yenish, Dow AgroSciences field scientist, has outlined an example of a proper weed management action timeline for managing herbicide resistance in winter wheat.

August-October: Pre-plant period of upcoming crop

- Use tillage or burndown applications to control weeds present prior to crop planting
- Effectiveness of pre-plant weed control will depend largely on moisture conditions leading up to winter wheat planting

October-December: Pre-emergence and early development of crop

- If conditions allow, apply pre-emergence or early post-emergence residual herbicides such as PowerFlex® HL as part of a two-phase approach to winter annual grass weed control
- PowerFlex HL or other products can provide a unique mode of action at a unique timing for control of grass weeds such as downy brome
- Alternatively, if fall moisture is adequate and the crop has developed past the 3-leaf stage, November may provide an opportunity for post-emergence applications for control of downy brome or other winter annual weed species

February-May: Early spring development

- Scout fields following winter dormancy to determine the extent of populations of winter and early spring annual weeds
- If grass and broadleaf weed development are substantially different, consider splitting grass and broadleaf herbicide applications to provide greatest control of all targeted weeds
- Apply all herbicides at the proper timing for crop and weed development and under conditions that provide optimal control with less chance for crop injury

May-June: Pre-harvest period

- Once crop has headed, scout fields for escaped weeds. Identify those weeds and determine the best strategy for preventing seed production
- In extreme situations, this may include harvesting the crop for hay or simply using mowing, tillage or herbicide applications to destroy the weed escapes and the crop
- Generally, once the crop had reached the soft dough stage of development, pre-harvest or harvest aid applications of labeled herbicides can be done safely
- Be sure to read and follow all label directions for harvest aid applications

June-September: Harvest strategies

- Minimize movement of herbicide-resistant weeds between and within fields
- Evaluate weed populations and weed escapes just prior to crop harvest
- If possible, harvest fields with suspected populations of herbicide-resistant weeds last
- Similarly, isolate areas of individual fields with suspected resistance and harvest those portions of the field last
- Know where custom harvest equipment has been and ensure equipment is clean before it enters the field and as it leaves your fields
- Tarp all loads of grain as they leave your fields and encourage your neighbors to do the same

Weed resistance management practices will not be identical for every grower or in every field. It is important to use multiple practices to manage or delay resistance. Don't be afraid to try new strategies—keeping in mind that no single approach will be completely effective on its own.

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