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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Late Season Fall Herbicides for Cover Crops

With harvest of soybeans nearing completion on many farms in Southern Ohio, and corn harvest well on its way, some cover crops have been planted. Weed control for crop land continues to be an issue, so the cover crops are no exception. The fight to control weeds needs to part of the plan for your cover crops.

Dr. Mark Loux, OSU Extension Weed Specialist provided this in this week's CORN Newsletter (<http://corn.osu.edu>). Dr. Loux covers several weed issues in this article.

A fairly common question this time of year – where I have planted cover crops, do I still need a fall herbicide treatment to help manage marestail? The underlying premise here is that where a cover crop develops enough biomass to adequately cover the ground by late fall, it can contribute substantial suppression/control of marestail. Grass covers seem to be most effective at suppressing marestail, as long as they are planted early enough in fall to develop this type of biomass. Grass covers can also be treated postemergence in the fall with several broadleaf herbicides, while this is not possible in covers that contain broadleaf crops – legumes, radish, etc. There are no hard and fast rules with regard to this situation but here are some things to think about:

- Herbicide options for cereal rye and wheat covers generally include all of the typical postemergence herbicides that are labeled for fall use in small grains – 2,4-D, dicamba, 2,4-D/dicamba premix, Huskie, etc. We do not recommend use of 2,4-D in fall on small grains grown for yield because of the potential for crop injury and yield loss. However, we have applied 2,4-D to cereal rye and ryegrass in our research, and either injury did not occur or was minor enough that we did not detect it. Yield is a not a factor for cover crops anyway. Late-planted rye and wheat, which would be less developed at the time of application, may be more sensitive to 2,4-D injury.
- Do not apply dicamba or 2,4-D around the time of planting due to risk of injury. Delay applications until cover has at least a few inches of growth. It is possible to make a preemergence application of glyphosate plus Sharpen, and Sharpen alone could work if marestail is the only weed of concern.
- Decisions about whether to treat a cover yet this fall should probably be based on several factors and how they affect cover crop development and marestail control: date of cover planting – earlier is better; seeding rate – higher is better; row spacing – narrower is better; ground cover – more is better (or less bare ground observed is better); overall cover biomass – more is better. Some of these factors are related of course. A higher seeding rate may net be needed to obtain adequate ground cover when planting early, but it could help in later planting. Even where the cover is optimized, fall application may be the safe strategy in fields with a history of dense marestail infestations that always seem to be a problem to control.
- Spring burndown management can also have a role in the fall herbicide decision. In our research in soybeans, maximum suppression of marestail often occurred when the cover crop kill in spring was



- delayed until close to planting, compared with early April, where we had substantial fall biomass. At
- one site however, the rye did not provide near as much suppression, and maretail control was maximized by applying in April, when maretail were smaller and more sensitive to 2,4-D. So it's possible to compensate for the lack of a fall herbicide treatment by applying the burndown earlier, or by applying a more aggressive burndown treatment. For example, using dicamba in the soybean spring burndown/residual treatment will often result in more effective control compared with 2,4-D. Preemergence use of dicamba in Xtend soybeans also allows application of the burndown anytime before crop emergence if that's the way a grower wants to manage the rye. Bottom line – relying on 2,4-D still in the spring burndown might sway the decision toward still treating in fall, while relying on dicamba could sway the decision the other way, all other factors being equal.

In summary, factors allowing for greatest possibility of skipping application of fall herbicides to the cover crop: 1) earliest possible cover planting and development of substantial fall growth that prevents bare ground; 2) use of more effective spring burndown herbicides; and 3) fields with low maretail populations.

### **SOACDF Scholarships**

Last week some of the information that I stated was from previous years for the SOACDF (Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community Development Foundation) scholarship program. Be sure to contact the foundation at 393-2700 to make sure you have the current application and rules for applying. You can get the current application at the FSA office or online from the foundation's website. The address is <http://soacdf.net>

### **Black Walnuts**

Black walnut trees were loaded this year. Not sure if that means we are headed for a rough winter or not, but it does mean there is an opportunity to make some cash right now. Black walnuts are worth \$15 per hundred pounds after they are hulled.

There is a local place to sell your walnuts in the West Union area. The place is called Valley View Ventures and it is located at 125 Hull Road West Union, OH. The phone number is 937-798-9866. The sign says they are open 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday until November 11. The fine print does say the price is subject to change based on supply and demand, so you may want to call and check the price. They began taking walnuts on the first Monday in October.

### **Dates to Remember**

Oct. 28                      Tire Collection at the Brown Co. Recycling Center in Georgetown.