



Keeping conventional soybeans Weed Free all season long.

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Growing conventional (non RR or Xtend) soybeans can be challenging from a weed control standpoint. Weeds impact yield and quality of the food grade crop. Keeping soybeans weed free all season long until harvest will make the conventional soybean growing experience enjoyable. It all starts with a good herbicide program. The agronomy staff at Lakeside can help tailor the program to match your field's specific needs.

Spring game planning:

Before the sprayer hits the field this spring, have a solid game plan in place. Review some important parameters around the field's history to dial in the weed control needs.

Field weed and herbicide history:

Review your fields historical weed pressure and what recent products/modes of action were used. What was sprayed on this field in previous seasons and how good was the control? What weed species escaped the previous seasons program. The herbicide program may have to be tweaked to compensated for the weed profile. If the field in question is returning to soybeans for a second or third year, the program should be probably be adjusted. This is key in avoiding herbicide resistance. Using the same herbicide program year after year in a continuous soybean "rotation" will leave you disappointed and your soybean fields full of weeds.

Pre-emergent herbicides

The foundation of a good weed control program for conventional soybeans all starts with pre-emergent herbicides. Ideally applying 3 or 4 residual products in the pre-emergent application will help guarantee the best possible start. The products applied should be from different modes of action to ensure overlapping control across your field's weed spectrum.

Some herbicides can have a negative crop response if applied together. Consult with your Lakeside rep before mixing products in the sprayer tank.

The in-crop rescue treatment

In an ideal world, the pre-emergent burndown program will keep the entire field weed free for the whole growing season. However, that is not always the case. Weather after herbicide application plays a very large factor in the success of the product. Most herbicides require adequate moisture to activate the product. Not just a small amount (usually 10 mm or ½ inch is required for most products). A dry start to the growing season may mean a respray pass.

Respraying for weed escapes starts with good and timely scouting. Usually 3 weeks or 21 days after planting a field should be sprayed for weed escapes if required. A detailed field walk to identify the weed species is very important. Various post emergent products on the market only control specific weeds species. That is especially the case for broadleaf weed escapes.

Lambsquarter escapes will require a different program than common ragweed or red root pigweed escapes. If you are ever in a bind, snap a picture and send it to one of the Lakeside staff to confirm the weed species you're dealing with.

Crop safety while maximizing weed control:

Our goal is to keep fields as clean as possible while maximizing yield. Beating up or burning soybeans with a post emergent spray is never the plan. Many of the soybean crop protection products on the market can be quite safe if used correctly. Crop staging and weed staging, water volumes, correct adjuvants, weather and time of day can play a big factor in potential crop response as well as herbicide efficacy.

Crop staging is very important when determining crop safety. Soybeans that have entered the reproductive or flowering stages (R1 and beyond) will have a much great risk of injury. Some products are strictly off label during those growth stages and should not be applied (do not spray classic on soybeans when pods are present). Reading the label and consulting your agronomist before spraying beans at this stage is a must.

Weed staging and size at time of application will greatly influence the herbicides control. Typically, smaller weeds with fewer growing point are much easier to control than larger hardened off weeds. Spraying weeds at the correct size will maximize control.

The burner type products (Reflex, Blazer or Basagran) require higher water volumes (20 gal/acre +) for coverage and the addition of the proper adjuvant to be successful. Usually the label will identify the proper adjuvant to use.

Herbicides usually work better when the weather is hot because of increased uptake or potentially a faster burn. Days with extreme heat are probably not the safest time to spray in crop herbicides. The crop is stressed and at higher risk of injury. Waiting till later in the day when temperatures are cooler will limit crop response and allow the soybeans to metabolize the applied herbicides.



Keeping conventional soybean weed free and clean till harvest can be achieved. Speak with one of the Lakeside staff members to come up with top notch program to keep the weeds under control.