

Alfalfa Weed Control Options

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Establishing New Stands

- Balan or Eptam
- Must incorporate both herbicide—neither herbicide will last that long, but still offer some effective control
 - ✓ Balan – apply and incorporate within 3 weeks prior to planting.
 - ✓ Good activity on annual grasses, but only fair on many annual broadleaf weeds
 - ✓ Eptam – (Remember Eradicane?)
 - Can be applied by chemigation
 - Weak on broadleaf weeds, activity on yellow nutsedge

Seedling Alfalfa, 2-4 trifoliolate leaves

- Buctril (4 trifoliates)
 - ✓ Broadleaf weed control, no activity on grasses
 - ✓ Very weak on pigweeds
 - ✓ Susceptible weeds must be small, coverage is important, no soil activity
 - ✓ May be mixed with 2,4-DB or Pursuit
 - ✓ Do not cut or graze spring-treated alfalfa within 30 days after application (DAA), or winter-treated alfalfa 60 DAA
- 2,4-DB (2 to 4 trifoliates)
 - ✓ Broad spectrum broadleaf weed control
 - ✓ Good alone or tank-mixed with Buctril, Pursuit, Poast Plus, Select
 - ✓ Needs crop oil for effective weed control, but slight crop injury may be observed
 - ✓ Biggest concern is drift to susceptible crops (cotton) and improper tank cleanout prior to use in other crops (cotton). Separate spray systems are recommended.
 - ✓ Do not graze seedling alfalfa with 60 days after application (DAA), or established alfalfa within 30 DAA

- Poast Plus or Select
 - ✓ The herbicides have activity postemergence on grassy weeds only. No activity on broadleaf weeds (and crops) and no soil activity
 - ✓ Poast Plus may be better for annual grasses, but for johnsongrass and hard-to-control grasses favor Select
 - ✓ Do not graze, feed, or harvest undried forage with 7 days after application (DAA) or feed or harvest dry hay 14 DAA (Poast Plus). For Select, the harvest, grazing, or feeding for forage or hay is 15 DAA.

- Pursuit (2 trifoliate)
 - Apply in the fall, in the spring to dormant or semi-dormant alfalfa, or between cuttings
 - ✓ Has both foliar and soil activity
 - ✓ Works best on small weeds
 - ✓ Reasonably good control of broadleaf weeds, but grass control can be inconsistent
 - ✓ Add surfactant and liquid N
 - ✓ Be aware that Pursuit has an 18 month rotation restriction before planting cotton and sorghum
 - ✓ Days to harvest interval: 30

- Raptor (2 trifoliate)
 - ✓ Same type chemistry as Pursuit, but better post activity on most weeds and grasses
 - ✓ Apply to rosette weeds before they exceed 3 inches
 - ✓ Shorter residual than Pursuit
 - ✓ Crop safety is good, but not as good as Pursuit
 - ✓ There must be an interval of at least 20 days between application and cutting or feeding of alfalfa forage or hay and an interval of 70 days when using alfalfa seed for food or feed

Both Pursuit and Raptor have greatly helped getting alfalfa established, especially in weedy fields.

Established Alfalfa, One Year Old

All of the above products are also labeled for use in established alfalfa

Dormant Alfalfa—As a precaution, keep in mind that many alfalfas, particularly Fall Dormancy (FD)7 and higher essentially do not go completely dormant in the winter, and we can assume that some injury would occur. For alfalfas that are generally considered semi-dormant, (FD 4 to 6), producers need to evaluate the crop. FD 4 is pretty much dormant in West Texas, but FD 5 and 6 could remain green, and an FD 6 might even grow a little on a warm day. FD 7 certainly would.

- Velpar
 - Apply in late winter
 - Has both soil and foliar activity
 - Strong on mustards and will pick up later-emerging weeds

Good activity on winter grasses

Do not graze or feed treated forage or hay with 30 days after application

➤ Karmex

Apply in late winter.

Has both soil and foliar activity.

Often used in combination with Velpar, but may burn alfalfa slightly more than Velpar alone

➤ Velpar AlfaMax

Premix of Velpar and Karmex. Gives longer residual than Velpar applied alone.

See above

➤ Sencor

✓ Apply to dormant alfalfa

✓ Activity mostly on broadleaf weeds, but it have some activity on grasses

✓ Cannot use on soils with a pH greater than 7.5

✓ Days to harvest or grazing: 28

Non-Dormant Alfalfa

➤ Treflan (formulations 4EC and 10G)

✓ Some formulations can be applied through chemigation

✓ Must be incorporated within 48 hours after application. Single rainfall or overhead sprinkle irrigation of 0.5 inches or more can be used to incorporate

✓ Key is getting it incorporated before weeds emerge.

✓ Dodder control

➤ Prowl H2O

✓ May be applied through chemigation

✓ Must be applied prior to weed emergence

✓ Among key restriction notes is no application within 50 days of harvest.

Roundup Ready Alfalfa

This applies to existing seedings and stands as of March 31, 2007. We anticipate that new Roundup Ready seedings will be possible in the fall of 2009.

➤ Roundup

- ✓ Broad-spectrum control of grass and broadleaf weeds
- ✓ Proven and familiar herbicide
- ✓ Excellent crop safety
- ✓ May use up to 44 oz Roundup WeatherMax (check newest formulations for possible changes in maximum rate) per application; up to 132 oz per year
- ✓ Grazing and harvesting interval is five days after application

Herbicide/Weed Control Ratings

Herbicide	Pigweed	Kochia	Mustards	Cheat	Barnyard Grass	Sandbur	Johnson grass
Balan	F	G	P	G	G	G	P
Eptam	F	F+	P	G	F	F+	P+
Buctril	F+	F	F	P	P	P	P
2,4-DB	G	G	G	P	P	P	P
Karmex	G-	G	G	F	G	F+	P
Velpar	G-	G	G	G	F	F+	P
Pursuit	G	G+	G	P	G-	P+	F+
Raptor	G	G	G	P	G	P+	F+
Prowl	G	G-	P+	G	G	G-	P
Treflan	G	G-	P+	G	G	G-	P
Poast Plus	P	P	P	G	G	G	F
Select	P	P	P	G	G	G	G
Roundup	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor							

"This publication is meant to be a guide suggestions weed control options in alfalfa. Be sure to read and carefully follow the herbicide label recommendations"