

Ryegrass: It's a matter of timing

ANNUAL Ryegrass (ARG) is one of the nation's most prolific grass weeds, with many herbicides and mixes available for its control, but timing is everything.

Because of the ability of the ARG population to stagger germination, it is very tempting to delay post emergent applications of herbicide to catch as many germinations as possible – not a good idea according to Terry Piper.

The first plants to germinate are the most vigorous and strongly growing, so as time passes waiting for later germinations, these early ones are getting stronger and harder to kill, providing a great way to encourage resistance.

More importantly, research carried out by the Department of Agriculture in the 1990's showed that yields were maximised and ryegrass seed set was minimised when Hoegrass® (Diclofop) was applied at 3 weeks after seeding compared to 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 weeks.

Weeds that emerge later will be swamped by a fast-growing crop and, more importantly, because the weeds have not been sprayed, there is no selection for resistance in the seeds produced by them.

Ryegrass resistance – a check list

WHEN selecting the right herbicide to use, it is first necessary to be aware of the resistance status of the weed population being targeted, with the first question to be asked is whether Diclofop still works.

If the answer is yes, it's a great choice for wheat and barley before the weeds have more than four leaves. Wetter should be used and oil added if there is some stress.

If there is some resistance to Diclofop, try adding 100-150 g/ha Tralkoxydim to 3-500mL of Diclofop, with the rate varying with crop size. Oil should be added and the ARG should be in the 2-4 leaf range.

If there is major resistance to Diclofop, the next one to consider is Trifluralin for wheat and barley, a pre-emergent that needs to be incorporated after spraying, with best results coming from spraying onto bare earth as stubble can reduce its efficacy. Heavy stubble should be reduced by burning or raking, although fresh ash from a burn can lock up the Trifluralin.

If seeding with knife points, the rate should be increased to compensate for the volatilisation, as long as rain doesn't wash the chemical into the furrow. If using full cut points, spraying post-seeding, pre-emergent and incorporating with prickle harrows may be a better option.

Improved control can be achieved for barley or Blade and Eagle Rock wheat with a Trifluralin/Metribuzin mix at 1 L/ha Trifluralin and 150 g/ha Metribuzin.

This mixture will also control most other grass weeds, especially brome and barley grasses, as well as capeweed, doublegee, fumitory, mustard, toadrush, turnip, radish, and wireweed.

A THOUGHT FROM e.anon: Be yourself! No one else is better qualified.

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is the address for the new 4Farmers web site which can supply all details of 4Farmers products, MSDS sheets and QA information.

Technical information can be obtained from 4Farmers agents or from Terry Piper, Product Support, Welshpool on 1800 038 445.

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There are many options for controlling grass weeds in cereals.

4Farmers achieve new registration

4FARMERS now have registered Tralkoxydim 400 WG - a useful chemical for control of wild oats and ryegrass in all cereals except oats. It is also a great product to mix with Diclofop, which can give control of ryegrass that has started to develop Diclofop resistance.

Psychological resistance

WHEN farmers are asked by Agronomists whether the common grass herbicides still work on their farm, a surprising number of them answer "Yes, but I don't want to use them in case I get resistance". The real answer then is that resistance is present on the farm – psychological resistance."

If grass selectives still work, don't be afraid to use them – just use them wisely. Early removal of grasses from paddocks during the pasture phase is a good option, allowing a good disease break and maximum nitrogen fixing, results that can also be achieved by using them in lupins or peas.

In these scenarios, there is the option of crop or pasture topping with paraquat to remove any plants that may have survived the grass selectives due to resistance.