



April 17, 2007

Alfalfa Weevil

In northern KS, and in NE, freeze damage was severe on alfalfa in the last 2 weeks. According to university specialists, crown damage was unlikely because it takes temperatures below 15-18 degrees in the crown for an extended period to cause lasting damage. Top growth on the alfalfa was lost, so first cutting will be later this year, and we will probably lose a cutting in a lot of areas due to the shorter growing season.

Alfalfa weevil have made their presence known in central, and southern KS this year. Populations of weevil in alfalfa seem to be at all time high numbers in a lot of fields. Over the last 10-14 days, there have been few if any opportunities to treat weevil due to weather conditions ranging from rain, cold, frost, high winds, and snow. The cold weather pushed the weevil down to the ground in most cases, so even as the alfalfa was not growing, the weevil were doing very little feeding as well. Most of the damage was due to frost injury on the alfalfa, and less due to actual weevil feeding.



As temperatures warm up, look for weevil feeding to increase. If the alfalfa has good foliage present 4-6" tall or more, Mustang Max at 4.0 oz should provide good control. The other recommendation is Furadan at 1.5 pt. has been the standard for knockdown and residual for years and with weevil on the ground, damaged foliage, Furadan is the best option to control them wherever they are. If rain is forecast, it is recommended a sticker be added to Furadan to help retain product on the foliage for improved residual.

As alfalfa begins to regrow in areas north of I-70, watch weevil feeding on new buds. Research has shown that 4-5 days of feeding on new growth will justify treatment due to yield loss. Furadan on new growth is the best option since there is little live foliage for a pyrethroid.

Begin looking for adults to emerge soon. With the swings in temperature, larva will pupate and adults begin to show up starting in OK, KS over the last week or so and beginning in C-KS. If adults are present, Furadan is the best option. If using Mustang Max or any pyrethroid, tank-mix with 4 oz of Furadan or 4-8 Lorsban to help knockdown adults. Pyrethroids alone are weak on adult alfalfa weevil.

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Burndown Options Close to Planting.

The wet, cold weather has put a delay on the greater corn acres that need to get planted. The winter, spring moisture has a healthy crop of winter annuals present in most no-till, ridge-till fields. As field soils warm up for planting, growers also need to get these weeds cleaned up to prevent these weeds from robbing all the moisture Mother Nature has given us. These winter annuals are huge users of water, which is why they don't do as well in hotter, drier summer conditions. They need cool, wetter conditions in spring to thrive, and with fuel costs at \$2.50/gallon, it takes about \$10-\$15/acre to replace 1" water with irrigation just in fuel alone.



Aim provides fast burndown of winter annuals to help desiccate weeds faster than a glyphosate or 2,4-D mix. **Aim**, because it is a PPO herbicide, is light activated and is much more active under cold conditions than many of the translocated products. Below is a table showing the relative difference in control between Glyphosate alone and when **Aim** is added. The numbers in red show where **Aim** increased control by more than 10% over glyphosate alone.

Percent Control	Glyphosate	Aim + Glyphosate
<i>Weed Species</i>	1 Week	1 Week
Horseweed (marestail)	57	68
Jimsonweed	58	99
Lambsquarters, common	59	85
Lettuce, (wild, prickly)	38	67
Mallow, common	28	55
Morningglory species	51	85
Mustards (wild, blue, tumble)	48	61
Pigweeds	72	89
Poinsettia, wild	87	99
Smartweed	61	90
Henbit	31	53



Burndown Options Close to Planting – cont.

Recommendations for Burndown.

- Aim 0.5-0.75 oz + 2,4-D LV 8-12 oz + COC 1 gal/100 gal.
 - Good, low cost treatment for winter annuals if planting will not occur for 5-7 days.
 - If winter annual pressure is heavy, weeds heading out, flowering – Use 0.75 oz of Aim to get maximum weed desiccation and faster control. Weeds like henbit, mustards that are heading are in reproduction so use 0.75 oz to get best control.
- Aim 0.5-0.75 oz + Glyphosate 24-32 oz + 8 oz 2,4-D + AMS
 - #1 overall recommendation for general burndown. Glyphosate cleans up any grasses coming and helps 2,4-D on deep rooted weeds, Aim speeds up both products to provide fast burndown. Low rate of 2,4-D means you can plant in less than 7 days.
 - Use surfactant loaded glyphosate or add NIS at 2 qt/100 to glyphosate to ensure activity.
- Aim 0.5-0.75 oz + Glyphosate 32 oz + AMS
 - NO Plantback restrictions on labeled crops. Corn, Soybeans, Peas, Beans, ect.
 - Use 0.75 oz where conditions are cold, heavy pressure from kochia, lambsquarter and other weeds getting over 4" tall, or heavy winter annual pressure.
- Aim 0.5-0.75 oz + Atrazine products, Lumax, Lexar, + COC 1 gal/100 gal.
 - Excellent way to heat up atrazine to give complete burndown of winter, early summer annuals.
 - Add 2,4-D 4-8 oz if time permits before planting to help with big dandelion, marestail.
- Aim is excellent with Preplant / At-plant liquid fertilizer on corn. If running Aim mixtures with 25-30 GPA of liquid fertilizer, make sure to add COC or NIS at 1 pt/acre to ensure good activity. When applying Aim with floaters, ensure pattern breakup is good to get maximum coverage of weeds. Large drops will only spot up weeds. Good coverage as with a row crop sprayer is needed to get control. We only have one chance to get good control of these weeds, make the most of that application and do it right the first time if we can.





HatchTrakSM



This photo is a little tough to see, but this is a university plot in a commercial field that was destroyed by wireworms. The field was replanted as a test plot and several labeled insecticides were used for wireworm control at the rootworm rate. The two rows shown with the white arrows are the Capture treatments. Nearly all of the other commercial insecticides had no stand and could not control this heavy of a wireworm infestation.

Wireworms in Corn

The cold soil conditions and wet weather will slow corn emergence once we get it in the ground. If fields have had emergence problems in the past due to insect damage like wireworms or cutworms, they could show up in 2007 again. Capture LFR at 3.4 oz on rotated fields, provides superior wireworm control as shown in the university trial above. With the delays this year, short seed supplies, we only have 1 chance to get the corn stand right. Mix Capture LFR with starter fertilizer as it goes to the field and make sure insects don't reduce stands. Seed treatments help some, but have shown to be inadequate in many cases. Capture LFR has demonstrated stand increases and consistent 7-10 bu yield increases over the last 3 years.

Cutworms

The colder, wetter conditions are also conducive for greater cutworm damage. Dingy cutworm overwintering in NE, KS, SD soils will be feeding when corn emerges. Fields taken out of alfalfa, wheat, will be prime areas for cutworm infestations. Mustang Max at 1.3-2.0 oz broadcasted will provide excellent control and residual through May. Black cutworm moth catches have begun to show up in areas of MO, S-IL as moths move up on south winds. Be aware of the field conditions as you head to the field and watch for conditions where Black cutworm like to lay eggs. Trashy, weedy fields, grasses, heavy cover from winter annuals are preferred locations.

Capture LFR can also be broadcast on the soil surface for cutworm control. Capture LFR is labeled for cutworm control in-furrow and provides good control unless cutworm populations are heavy. Then having some product on the surface to ensure cutworm don't make it to the plants will provide maximum protection. Many growers using Capture LFR will apply 2.5 oz in-furrow, then follow with 1-1.5 oz on the surface to control both wireworm and cutworms in the same trip or with their broadcast herbicide.