



Media Release

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One hit control of marshmallow and bifora in your cereals

ONE of the best starts to the winter cropping season has been accompanied by one of the most extensive germinations of marshmallow ever seen across South Australia's broadacre cropping regions - especially on properties practising minimum till and direct drilling.

Marshmallow (small-flowered mallow) is also exploding in the West Australian cropping belt.

Until recently, marshmallow has been difficult to control with herbicides, so farmers have been relying on tillage for control. There are very limited control options for marshmallow in canola, field pea, lentil and other grain-legume crops.

Luckily this year's marshmallow outbreak can be effectively tackled in cereal crops with Affinity - the same herbicide that several years ago provided growers with great relief from one of South Australia and western Victoria's major winter broadleaf weed headaches, bifora (also known as carrot top).

Affinity mixed with Thistlekillem (MCPA amine) provides rapid and effective control of marshmallow and is still the most effective herbicide for control of bifora.

With much of Australia's winter cereal crop already in the ground, growers are urged to inspect crops and to control both marshmallow and bifora in the next 2-3 weeks.

Hard-seeded bifora will continue to germinate in waves with good winter rains.

Simon Gregory, Crop Care technical sales representative for the Mid North and Eyre Peninsula region of South Australia said Affinity had become the industry standard for controlling bifora.

"Nothing else gets close to it. South Australia has the unenviable reputation of being home to the biggest infestation of bifora. But it's also starting to spread in broadacre areas of other states. The lesson from South Australia is to act quickly against bifora. Because it is very hard-seeded and sets a lot of seed, it's a long-term weed problem, with seed that can persist in soil for more than 8 years.

"Bifora reduces crop value by not only competing with the young crop but also reducing harvest quality - with low or zero tolerance of bifora seed in harvest of wheat and lentils for example.

"Look at attacking actively-growing bifora at the 4-6 leaf stage when there is enough leaf for effective coverage, and before the root system is well developed."

"It's been a particular problem for lentil growers, with no control options for bifora in a lentil crop and low tolerance for bifora seed in the lentil harvest. An effective solution is to use Affinity against bifora in a cereal crop grown in rotation with lentils and other grain legumes.

"For tough-to-control weeds like bifora it's recommended to stay at the higher Affinity usage rates of 60 g/ha. Always tank mix MCPA amine such as Thistlekillem at a minimum of 500 mL/ha with Affinity. A higher rate of

750 mL/ha of MCPA amine should be used once the cereal crop has 4-5 leaves and at least one fully-emerged tiller.”

Affinity has also proved highly effective against another widespread broadacre weed bedstraw (cleavers), which like bifora has a staggered germination, with seedlings emerging throughout the growing season. The recommendation is to apply Affinity when bedstraw has 4-6 whorls.

Other bonuses.

As well as controlling these three key weeds, Affinity provides exceptionally quick and positive control against a large range of broadleaf weeds of winter cereals, such as wild radish and wild turnip, Indian hedge mustard, spiny emex (doublegee, jacks), wireweed, stinging nettle, sow thistle, and wireweed.

Affinity has no residual soil carryover; so can be safely used in cereal/grain-legume rotations.

As a Group G herbicide, Affinity provides an additional herbicide option in rotational broadleaf weed management - an effective tool for delaying herbicide resistance.

One of the fastest acting selective broad-leaf herbicides available for winter cereals, Affinity ensures minimal weed competition, maximum crop yield and minimal harvest contamination.

Product Information

Affinity 400DF is a 400g/kg dry flowable formulation of carfentrazone-ethyl – a Group G herbicide for selective broad spectrum in-crop control of broadleaf weeds in winter cereals.

The non-systemic herbicide is rapidly absorbed through weed leaves leading to weed desiccation and death within 3 to 7 days after application.

Its recommended low use rate of 40 to 60g/ha plus its safety as a non-scheduled poison provides simple and safe handling, mixing and storage. It is well tolerated by all cereals and has no residual effect on subsequent crops.

It is recommended that Affinity be tank-mixed with Thistlekillem (MCPA amine). Rainfast within 1 hour, 6 hours when mixed with Thistlekillem.

Affinity – the industry standard for controlling bifora; one of the few effective in-crop herbicide options for controlling marshmallow in cereals; and highly effective against a wide range of other broadleaf weeds.

Brought to Australian cereal growers by Crop Care.

As always, read the label carefully and follow advice on application rates, spraying equipment, timing and the best conditions for spraying. Follow chemical handling and spray instructions carefully. Check the different rates and times for different purposes and situations.

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