

One-hit control of radish and marshmallow in cereals in WA

BROADACRE growers with a winter cereal crop in the ground are urged to consider using a shot of Group G herbicide to help manage wild radish.

Crop Care's West Australian technical sales representative Andrew Suverijn suggested trying the Group G herbicide Affinity plus MCPA amine (such as Thistlekillem) this season as an alternative for controlling wild radish & other broadleaf weeds like marshmallow.

Mr Suverijn said that wild radish - one of the most troublesome weeds in WA cropping systems - was showing increasing resistance to Group B, Group C, Group I and Group F herbicides.

"As early as 2003, 63% of wild radish in WA wheat crops had plants that were resistant to chlorsulfuron, for example.

"A herbicide that even has 80% effective kill still leaves behind enough radish plants to significantly reduce cereal grain yield and to continue the resistance cycle - so it's important to choose a herbicide that provides robust control

"In a planned rotation, Affinity mixed with Thistlekillem can alleviate some of the selection pressure being placed on Group F, Group B and Group C herbicides."

Because this season has started with very low soil moisture, he said it was vital to reduce weed competition as early as possible in the crop's life.

"As the major competitor in a winter cereal crop, grass weeds in wheat and barley should be treated first with a grass-selective herbicide like Achieve. Affinity can't be tank mixed with grass-selective herbicides, so treat the grass weeds first, then the broad-leafed weeds with Affinity/MCPA amine.

"Broadleaf weeds develop very rapidly after germination. In WA, wild radish can double in size from 4 to 8 leaves within 14 days - so keep an eye on it and act when the herbicide will be most effective. A delay of just a few days can make a big difference to control.

"Typically an earlier application after the main weed germination - when the majority of weeds are from cotyledon to 4-leaf - will provide the highest, most reliable control. Affinity will provide best control when weeds are exposed and not shielded by other plants.

"This earlier timing will also provide the greatest increase in grain yield by saving valuable moisture for crop growth."

Other bonuses

* As well as controlling wild radish and marshmallow, Affinity provides exceptionally quick and positive control against a large range of broadleaf weeds of winter cereals - including wild turnip, Indian hedge mustard, double gee and wireweed.

* Affinity is well tolerated by all tested varieties of wheat, barley, oats and triticale.

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

* 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.

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.