

Weed Control Experience

Alfalfa seed production has very limited acreage in Saskatchewan. Many herbicides that are registered on other crops grown here, are not registered for alfalfa seed production. Alfalfa seed growers will try different products "off label" to control weeds in their own fields. They make their own assessment of weed control, crop tolerance and effect on seed yield. We have done some of this, and share our experience in this table. There are differences among fields, farms and areas. Soil pH, organic matter, crop stage, available moisture, and general growing conditions are only some of the things that can impact the effectiveness and crop tolerance of any herbicide. Sometimes growing conditions following application can impact results. Products can work great one year, or for one farmer, but have with dismal results another year, or for a different farmer. Some products such as Pursuit or Velpar can have residual issues that can affect re-cropping. Even when you are "off-label", reading, understanding and following label directions is still excellent advice. Always leave an untreated area so you can assess how a particular treatment works for you, under the conditions on your field at that time.

This table is not meant to replace the many tables available on herbicides, weeds, and crops. It is just a summary of our experience with these products. Your experience may be different because of all the variables in play. If you look thru the many newsletters on this website, you can find more detailed discussion on specific weed issues. This table applies to a "seed year crop", which is very different to an "establishment year". Finally, when you apply treatment off label, you are totally on your own.

Herbicide - Group - Weed - Effectiveness - Crop Tolerance Table
Created From Experience, Observations, and Seed Yield Assessments At Pask Farms Ltd.

PROBLEMS ---->	CROPS	BAD WEEDS										MORE WEEDS THAT INCREASE DOCKAGE					NUISANCE CROPS AND WEEDS									
		Sweet Clover	Red + Alsike Clover	Canola	Canada Thistle	Cleavers	Kochia	Night Flowering Catchfly	Wild Mustard	Dock Species	Stinkweed	Dragonhead	Green Foxtail	Lamb's Quarters	Lady's Thumb	Russian Pigweed	Russian Thistle	Wild Buckwheat	Volunteer Grain	Wild Oats	Narrow Leaved Hawk's beard	Flaxweed	Hemp Nettle	Dandelions	Biennial Wormwood	
SOLUTIONS:	Chemical Group:																									
Spring Burning	Match					G	G				G															
Light Cultivation	Steel + Diesel					G	G			G												G				
<i>Note: Spring burning and light cultivation will control most winter annuals and early germinating annuals.</i>																										
Velpar DF	5	G	F	P	F	P	G	G	F	G	F	F	F	F	G	G	F	F	F	F	G	F	P	G		
Princep Nine-T	5	G	Check Princep Nine-T Label - we have limited experience with this product.																							
<i>Note: Velpar and Princep Nine-T are applied to dormant alfalfa in late fall or early spring, and control most shallow germinating seeds including alfalfa and thistle seedlings.</i>																										
Authority	14				G	E											G									
Valtera	14		F		G	F					F	G											F			
<i>Note: Authority and Valtera are applied to dormant alfalfa in late fall or early spring.</i>																										
Embutox 2-4DB	Note - In our experience Embutox and Troputox can be very hard on seed yields when applied in a seed production year																									
Pardner	6	F	G	F*	G	G	G	G			G	G	G	F	G											
Basagran	Note - In our experience Basagran can be hard on alfalfa - we have had better luck using 5 July Pardner treatment for Canada thistle suppression.																									
<i>Note: Pardner crop damage depends on crop stage and temperature/sunlight at application time. *Pardner at July timing suppresses Canada thistle seed production.</i>																										
Odyssey Ultra	1 WO, 2BL+WO		G*		P	P	G			G	G	G	F	F	G	F	F	G	G							
Pursuit	2		G*		P	P	G			G	G	F	P	F	G	F	F	F	F	F						
Viper	2BL, 6BL		G*		P	P	G			G	G	F	G	F	G	G	F	F	F	F						
<i>Note: Expect crop yellowing, especially from Viper. We are seeing poor control of kochia and cleavers due to resistance to Pursuit, Odyssey, and Viper. *no control on Clearfield volunteer canola.</i>																										
Assure II	1											E							E	E						
Poast Ultra	1											E							E	E						
<i>Note: Many group one grassy weed control products are being used on alfalfa seed, but only a few are registered.</i>																										
Avadex BW	8																			E						
Edge	3				F	F					G	G	F	F	F	F			F	F						
Trifluralin	3										E	G	G	F		G			G							
<i>Note: Avadex, Edge, and Trifluralin are usually spring applied and lightly incorporated.</i>																										
BL - Broadleaf WO- Wild Oat		Empty Box means we have no experience; P - We had Poor results; F - Fair control; G - Good control; E - Excellent control																								