



Despite Ruling, Labels Still in Effect for Lorsban

The EPA has until October 8 to either ban the insecticide chlorpyrifos or appeal a decision by the 9th Circuit court of Appeals that called for the agency to ban the product.

Until then, according to Steve Salisbury, research and regulatory coordinator for the Oregon Seed Council, growers can use chlorpyrifos, the active ingredient in Lorsban, under the current label.

“Until EPA does anything, all the labels are in effect,” Salisbury said. “You can still buy it. You can still apply it.”

If EPA appeals the 2-1 August 9 decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals’ full 25-judge panel, all uses of chlorpyrifos are expected to be continued until the court decides the case. “All EPA has to do is say they are appealing the ruling,” Salisbury said, “and, from what I understand, growers will still be able to use the product in the field and will be able to do so until the EPA says ‘No More.’”

If EPA decides to comply with the court order, uses will be discontinued immediately, Salisbury said.

“It is not going to be the kind of shutdown that has occurred with other products that we have seen in recent years, where you have a certain number of days to use up the rest of your supply,” Salisbury said. “There is going to be no phase out. It is going to be done.”

The immediate-shutdown potential has created uncertainty in the marketplace, Salisbury said, and is expected to create supply issues even if EPA goes forward with an appeal.

“Distributors don’t want to buy it and put up a bunch of inventory, because if the pin is pulled, they are going to have to eat inventory,” Salisbury said. “And the manufacturers don’t want to manufacture too much, because, again, if the pin is pulled, they are going to be sitting on a bunch of product that they can’t do anything with.”

“It has really put the industry – and I’m talking the U.S. ag industry – in this quandary where nobody knows what to do,” Salisbury said. “It is a big challenge.”

Chlorpyrifos long has been a key soil insecticide for grass seed growers to manage several insect pests, but especially for soil-dwelling insects, Salisbury said. “There is a fair amount of research

that shows that Lorsban is your best treatment on sod webworm, cutworms, wireworms. Lorsban is your leader of the pack to control these.



“If you are trying to control some of these insects without Lorsban, you are going to be up against it in a pretty bad way,” he said.

As for whether it would be wise for growers to stockpile Lorsban (if they can get their hands on the product), Salisbury said that is a tough call. But, he said, he believes EPA will appeal the decision, which will likely allow growers to apply the product until the appeal is decided.

A side note to the current issue is the decision by the 9th Circuit to ban the product is setting a disconcerting precedent, Salisbury said.

“The problem with this is it is setting a precedence of the courts telling EPA that they are not doing their job correctly, and that the courts are disregarding science,” he said. “That would be bad for U.S. agriculture.”

Three environmental groups sued the EPA in April 2017 to force a chlorpyrifos ban, leading to the court case.

An EPA spokesman has said the agency is reviewing the court’s decision.

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A Look at Grass Weed Control Timing and Products

Speaking during a rainy spell the second week of September, Oregon State University Extension Weed Management Specialist Andy Hulting said growers may be anxious to get started on their fall weed control program.

Doing so at that point, however, Hulting said, was probably too early.

“The question is, is it time to pull the trigger on our pre-emergence applications,” Hulting said during the Extension Seed Crop and Cereal Production Meeting September 12 in Salem. “My sense is we are not quite there yet.

“Certainly, the nights are cooler, the weather is changing, but I don’t think we’ve had quite enough moisture yet for our winter annual grass weeds to germinate and for that sprout to get going,” he said.

The general rule of thumb for timing the first fall application is to get a half an inch of moisture within ten days of application, Hulting said.

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Andy Hulting

“That seems to maximize efficacy and crop safety,” he said.

“I know you have acres to cover, and I know it is not possible to spray every field in a timely fashion,” he added, “but if you use that guide, based on the trial work we’ve done, that seems to be where we get the best control.”

As for targeting specific weeds, Hulting said that for established roughstalk bluegrass, getting down Axiom with a mid-rate of glufosinate plus Nortron has worked well in established tall fescue.

“It is a big shot,” he said. “It is pretty aggressive, but that seems to be where we’ve gotten the best established roughstalk control in our tall fescue.”

He added that it is important to use those products in a single tankmix when making that initial application.

“If you don’t want to use Axiom, we’ve done a lot of work with Dual in September and October and followed with Outlook, and that can provide some control,” he said. “Or start with Dual and Outlook and follow with Axiom in November. That seems to work, as well.

“But, again, we are still going to be reliant on glufosinate to control those emerged plants if you miss the initial germination,” he said.



Andy Hulting speaks to participants at the OSU Extension Seed Crop and Cereal Production meeting in Salem, September 12.

“And we really like the fall glufosinate applications at the lower rates. We think we are getting better efficacy than the rescue treatment in the spring at the higher rates.

“So, utilizing 10 to 16.5 ounces of glufosinate in the fall seems to be a better option than 20 ounces in the spring,” he said.

If using glufosinate in the spring, Hulting said using a 20-ounce rate with a cutoff date of around April 1 seems to be a good rule of thumb for

maximizing efficacy and crop safety.

“Don’t tankmix glufosinate in the spring with other herbicides at this higher use rate because of crop injury concerns,” he said. “And we still have the grazing restriction in place on the glufosinate.

“I think we have some things coming along that are going to help us in the future, but that is our best management strategy at the moment,” he said. “That fall timing of the Nortron, plus the glufosinate, plus the Axiom seems to be the key.”

As for non-chemical strategies, Hulting identified sporadic deep tillage, or burial of the seed, as well as certain crop rotations that encourage more vegetative growth and less weed seed production as good options. “If you have those options, those are some non-chemical strategies for fields that had bad roughstalk problems,” he said.

Hulting encouraged growers who are carbon seeding to use the current standard of diuron and Kerb. “Starting clean, eliminating those grass weeds is key,” he said. “And the benefits of a clean start far outweigh risk of Kerb injury, in my opinion.

“So, make sure you are taking advantage of that diuron-Kerb treatment until we get something new,” he said.

On *poa* species, Hulting said that Axiom “seems to give us the best control,” and that Outlook and Dual are equivalent, followed by Prowl.

“And timing is key,” he said.



New Weed Control Options Close to Being Registered

Grass seed growers could soon have new options for hard to control grass weeds.

Four grass-weed-control products are in the registration pipeline for grass seed crops, including Fierce and Zidua, which both contain pyroxasulfone; Matrix, or rimsulfuron; and Alion, or indaziflam.

“We are very close on Matrix and Fierce,” said Oregon State University Weed Management Specialist Andy Hulting. “They have been through the IR-4 process. They are in the hands of the registrants, and it is up to them to get the labeling done.”

The industry was hopeful Fierce would be registered by now, but EPA pushed back when it was expected to sign off on the product from August to October 17, he said.

“I know that (Oregon Seed Council’s) Steve Salisbury and the ODA have been working hand-in-hand to prime the pump so when EPA signs off on Fierce, we will get the state label as soon as we can,” Hulting said.

He added that Valent, manufacturer of Fierce, is hosting training sessions in late September. “So, they must feel like registration is imminent with Fierce,” he said.

“As soon as we get that state label, they will start shipping product, and we could have Fierce mid-winter, or certainly by next year,” Hulting said.

Indaziflam, or Alion, which, like pyroxasulfone has activity on resistant *poa* species, also is on the horizon. But, Hulting said, Bayer, the manufacturer of Alion is not going through the IR-4 process, which could slow its release.

Fierce and Alion provide good control of herbicide-resistant *poa* species, Hulting said. As for the Matrix, he said, “We’ve seen less efficacy with rimsulfuron, or Matrix, but I think it will still be helpful as a carbon-seeding label in some fields, and we’ve had good crop safety with Matrix.”

Hulting added that all three of the products appear to work in carbon seeding.

“Just like diuron,” he cautioned, “crop injury increases with increased rate and delayed planting.”

In addition to the above products, Hulting said that BASF has a version of pyroxasulfone for use in established grass crops called Zidua, but it isn’t expected to be labeled for carbon seeding.

An additional product, Eptam, also is being looked at for *poa* control in established grasses, Hulting said.



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THE E-NEWSLETTER

The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps. It includes a snapshot of what’s happening currently with respect to weather, pest and disease outbreaks, harvest, label updates, and other management activities. Growers or field reps can provide input anytime at mitchlies@comcast.net.

Several Varieties to Choose from in Winter Wheat

With Rosalyn, several top-yielding Limagrain lines and a new OSU/Limagrain variety available, Willamette Valley wheat growers have several good options for winter wheat this year, according to Oregon State University Extension agent Nicole Anderson.

Speaking at the Extension Seed Crop and Cereal Production meeting September 12 in Salem, Anderson said the new variety, Norwest Tandem, may not be the top yielding variety in OSU Extension's soft winter wheat yield trials, but it can compete with the best and has a good disease package.

"If you want to look at a different variety, or you don't want to put all your eggs in one basket, I think Norwest Tandem is something I would at least consider taking a look at," Anderson said. Anderson said there were seed production fields for Norwest Tandem in operation this past season, so some seed stock will be available.

The newly released variety, long on the watch list of up and coming varieties, ranked in the top-ten of both the South and North Valley trials in 2018.

Rosalyn, a perennial front runner in the yield trials, continues to be a favorite among growers. (It topped the South Valley trial in 2018.) "Rosalyn is still a good variety," Anderson said, "and there is going to be plenty of seed stock available in the Valley this year, and it is still an open variety so you don't have to pay any royalties."

The variety has "a fairly good disease package," Anderson said. "It will get a little bit of stripe rust on it, so it is probably a one-spray wheat. But the resistance hasn't seemed to melt down at all, so if you have experience with it in the past, I would expect about the same performance in terms of disease profile."

Kaseberg, a mid-range yielder, continues to be a popular variety among some growers, Anderson said, and provides a viable option. "I think some of these other options are going to beat it in terms of yield potential," Anderson said, "but it has a pretty good disease package, there is seed supply available and it is a pretty decent variety."

"Its downside," she added, "is that it is susceptible to sharp eyespot, and other varieties will yield better."

The Limagrain varieties, Drive, Biancor and Artdeco, are "all good varieties," Anderson said.

"Artdeco can be a rust magnet," she added, "but it has yielded in the top three varieties of both (the North and South Valley) trials over the past three years."

She added growers might want to get seed early. "There have been some issues with seed supply from Limagrain in the past in the Valley, and I think those issues are still there," she said.

Bobtail, which has an excellent disease package, continued to yield well in the 2018 trials, ranking in the top ten in the South Valley trial, but there have been test-weight issues in the past. "I



Nicole Anderson, speaking at the Extension Seed Crop and Cereal Production meeting in Salem, Sept. 12, said several good varieties are available for growers looking to plant winter wheat.

think it is still a good variety," Anderson said. "It is the best disease-resistant line we have, but if you are worried about test-weight issues, it probably isn't a good variety for you."

Anderson cautioned growers from planting early. "When you plant between now and the middle of October, you are not getting any yield advantage, and you are setting yourself up for higher disease pressure throughout the year."

"There is a big difference to susceptibility to barley yellow dwarf and Septoria, depending on your planting date," she told growers. "As long as the weather looks relatively safe, I really encourage you to delay that wheat planting, because there are ramifications of planting early."

She identified the optimal timing as the last two weeks of October.

If planting into mid-November, she recommended growers look at early maturing varieties to ensure the plants get up and growing.

"Do not plant Rosalyn, Bobtail or Kaseberg in November," she said. "You want to be looking at the varieties that get up, get out and tiller like Biancor, Drive, Artdeco and Goetze."

As for seeding rate, Anderson recommended growers shoot for 20-25 seeds per square foot or between 60-90 pounds per acre.

"Check seed size and adjust accordingly," she said.

"If you are pushed into a later planting, or you are no-tilling, you need to bump that up about 30 percent over your conventional October planting, so 30 to 35 seeds per square foot or 100 to 150 pounds per acre."

"Again, check seed size," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of variability out there depending on the lots, even within the same variety."

Multiple Weed-Control Options in Wheat

Pyroxasulfone offers wheat growers an excellent tool for controlling small seeded broadleaf weeds, as well as grass weeds, according to Oregon State University Extension Weed Management Specialist Andy Hulting.

“We’ve done studies where we have tankmixed pyroxasulfone with Beyond, Sharpen, Axial, PowerFlex or Osprey, and that seems to be a very good treatment in wheat,” Hulting said.

Products containing pyroxasulfone, including Zidua and Anthem Flex, a premix of Aim plus pyroxasulfone, have worked well as early post-emergence applications, and have shown good flexibility at other timings, Hulting said.

“The maximum cumulative rate of Zidua is 2.5 ounces, so you can make multiple applications,” Hulting said.

“Anthem Flex might be of interest if you are no-tilling wheat to put out prior to seeding wheat,” he said. “You get some broadleaf control with the Aim, and it would be a good product at that timing.

“Just make sure with all pre-emergence products in wheat that your seeding depth is adequate,” he said. “I like to see anywhere from 1 to 1½ inches.”

Also, Hulting said, it is important to reduce the rate of Axiom “and probably some of these pyroxasulfone products as you get into delaying seedings in November and December, because you might not have good growing conditions, and it can get really wet, and you have more chance of crop injury.”

Hulting added that researchers and industry have worked with BASF on getting more realistic plant-back restrictions for pyroxasulfone. “I think we are making some progress there for their labels on Zidua,” he said. “To my knowledge, there hasn’t been an issue with seeding grass or clover in the fall following a normal pyroxasulfone application to wheat, so I think we are in good shape there.”

As for post-emergence applications, Hulting told growers there were no changes on that front.

“PowerFlex and Osprey are going to be your two main choices for grass weed control,” he said. “Certainly, PowerFlex is a better brome material if you are trying to manage bromes in wheat. But, if you are trying to clean up some *poa* in wheat, probably Osprey is the better choice.

“So, be aware of what you are trying to control,” he said.

Calendar

2018

- October 8** Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Elmer’s Restaurant 3950 Market St, Salem
- October 10** Oregon Clover Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth’s 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
- October 30** Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St. N.E., Albany
- November 27** Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St. N.E., Albany
- November 29** Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
- December 4** Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
- December 10** Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Salem Conference Center
- December 10-11** Oregon Seed League Annual Convention, Salem Conference Center, Salem, Oregon.
Visit seedleague.org for more information

2019

- January 22** Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St. N.E., Albany
- February 6** Oregon Clover Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Wilsonville Holiday Inn, Wilsonville
- February 6** Oregon Clover Growers Annual Meeting, 9 a.m., Wilsonville Holiday Inn, Wilsonville
- February 11** Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Elmer’s Restaurant, 3950 Market St, Salem
- February 19** Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
- February 21** Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
- February 26** Oregon Seed Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St. N.E., Albany