



Harvest Aid Weed Control in Wheat

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Heavy rains in some areas and wheat fields that are weedier than normal have resulted in questions about herbicides for harvest aid weed control. A harvest aid application will help reduce green weeds that are run through the combine. For wheat, Ally, 2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate, and Aim (as well as combinations of these products) are labeled for use as harvest aids (Table 1). Not all commercial products are labeled for harvest aid use, so it is important to read individual product labels. Remember that paraquat is not labeled as a harvest aid on wheat and that paraquat residues are easily detectable and have resulted in condemned wheat. Follow label directions carefully regarding herbicide carriers and additives. Using diesel fuel as the carrier for harvest aid herbicides will result in loads of wheat being rejected at the elevator due to contamination and smell.

All preharvest applications should be made when wheat is in the hard dough stage (30% or less grain moisture). The preharvest interval for most harvest aid herbicides is 7 to 14 days. Aim has the shortest preharvest interval at 3 days. Weeds may be large at the time of a harvest aid application and it may take 7 days or more for weeds to dry down, therefore it is important to use full rates to achieve maximum weed control. However, do not expect quick results. Depending on the weed species, harvest aid herbicides may stop weed growth but will not kill the weeds. Be sure to check the product label for appropriate use rates and rotation restrictions. With Ally, 2,4-D, and dicamba, be sure to check rotation restrictions if you are planning to double crop this summer.

If grassy weeds are the problem, it may be necessary to delay harvest until seedheads mature enough that seeds are threshed by the combine and can be separated from the wheat by the combine's cleaning fan. Downy brome and rescuegrass do not usually delay harvest. Wild oats and cheat may delay harvest 3 or 4 days. Ryegrass can require delaying wheat harvest 10 to 14 days, by which time lodging and summer weeds can become serious harvest issues.

Table 1. Herbicides labeled for use as a harvest aid in wheat.

Herbicide	Preharvest interval	Notes on use
glyphosate	7 days	Do not apply to wheat grown for seed, as reduction in germination or vigor may occur. There are no rotation restrictions with glyphosate.
2,4-D	14 days	Be aware of plant-back restrictions with the use of 2,4-D if planning to double crop.
dicamba (Banvel, Clarity)	7 days	Apply when wheat is in the hard dough stage or when the green color is gone from the nodes/joints of the stem. A germination test should be performed on preharvest-treated seed to ensure satisfactory germination. Be aware of plant-back restrictions with the use of dicamba if planning to double crop.
Ally	10 days	To improve weed control, Ally should be applied in combination with glyphosate, 2,4-D, or dicamba.
Aim, Rage D-Tech (Aim + 2,4-D)	3 days	

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