



Herbicide use may restrict grazing options for cover crops

Interest in cover crops increased dramatically due to their many potential benefits. In addition to conservation purposes, cover crops can provide forage for livestock producers. It is important for livestock producers to consider restrictions on labels of herbicides used earlier in the growing season if they intend to use the cover crop as a forage source.

The two primary reasons for restrictions related to cover crops are: 1) herbicide residues may prevent successful establishment of the cover crop, or 2) residue tolerances have not been established for the presence of the herbicide within the primary crop or cover crop. Many herbicides used in soybean prohibit grazing or feeding soybean forage, hay, or straw. This restriction prevents using cover crops established in these fields for feed. Regardless of the reason for the restriction, failing to follow the restrictions is a violation of the label and therefore a punishable offense.

The following tables list herbicide products that allow the establishment of cover crops during the same cropping season as application for the purpose of grazing or forage harvest. Herbicides are divided into three categories based on the minimum interval between application and planting of cover crops intended for forage purposes. The first

Table 1. Corn herbicides allowing establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage during the season of application.

Corn products that allow establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage less than 4 months after application.					
Tradenames	Cereal rye	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Others¹
Armezon/Impact	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basagran	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buctril	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Callisto			✓		
Clarity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fierce		✓			
glyphosate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harmony	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Liberty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Option	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northstar	✓	✓		✓	
Resolve		✓			
Status (≤ 5 ounces)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Valor (≤ 2 ounces)	✓	✓		✓	
Valor (≤ 3 ounces)		✓			
Zidua (≤ 2 ounces)		✓			
Stinger		✓	✓	✓	✓
Resource	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yukon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2,4-D	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Corn products that allow establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage 4 months after application.					
Accent Q	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Acuron	✓	✓		✓	
Acuron Flexi	✓	✓		✓	
Anthem Maxx (≤ 4.9 ounces)		✓			
Balance Flexx	✓	✓	✓		✓
Callisto	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Clarity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hornet	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Instigate	✓	✓		✓	✓
Laudis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outlook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prequel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prowl H20 (< 4 pints/A)		✓		✓	
Python	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Realm Q	✓	✓		✓	✓
Steadfast Q	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Surestart		✓			
Surpass/Harness		✓			
Valor (≤ 3 ounces)	✓	✓		✓	
Verdict	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zidua (≤ 3 ounces)		✓			
Corn products that allow establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage 4.5 months after application.					
Dual II Magnum	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Halex GT	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lumax	✓	✓		✓	
Sequence	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Zemax	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cadet ²	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹ Refer to product label to determine specific cover crops allowed.

² Any cover crop may be planted following harvest of corn treated with Cadet.

group of herbicides allows planting of the indicated cover crops within four months of application; the herbicide label will list the specific time interval. The second group of products requires a minimum of four months between application and planting of cover crops, whereas a 4.5-month interval is required for the third group.

The intent of this bulletin is to assist livestock producers in identifying herbicides that are compatible in cropping systems that use cover crops for forage. It is not intended to eliminate the need to read the label and determine specific used restrictions.

Due to the large number of generic and private brand products not all products are included in this table. Inclusion of a product in this bulletin does not imply endorsement of that particular brand, nor does exclusion imply non-approval. Read all herbicide labels prior to use.

No endorsement is intended by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of companies or their products mentioned nor is criticism implied of similar companies or their products not mentioned.

Prepared by Bob Hartzler, professor in agronomy and extension weed specialist at Iowa State University; Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach; Rebecca Vittetoe, field agronomist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

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Table 2. Soybean herbicides allowing establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage during the season of application.

Soybean products that allow establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage less than 4 months after application.					
Tradenames	Cereal rye	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Others¹
Basagran	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fusilade	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
glyphosate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Raptor		✓			✓
Zidua (≤ 2 ounces)		✓			
Soybean products that allow establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage 4 months after application.					
Classic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FirstRate		✓			
metribuzin		✓		✓	✓
Prowl 3.3E, H2O		✓		✓	
Raptor	✓	✓			✓
Zidua (≤ 3 ounces)		✓			
Soybean products that allow establishment of cover crops for grazing/forage 4.5 months after application.					
Boundary		✓		✓	
Dual II Magnum ²	✓	✓	✓	✓	

¹ Refer to label to determine specific cover crops that are allowed.

² Any cover crop may be planted following harvest of soybean treated with Cadet.

