



Fall Burndown Herbicide Options for Corn and Soybeans

Growers who utilize no-till production practices may want to consider a fall burndown herbicide to control troublesome perennial and/or winter annual weeds including dandelion, chickweed, henbit, purple deadnettle, pennycress, shepherd's purse, marestail, Canada thistle, prickly lettuce, poison hemlock, pokeweed, various mustard species, and others. Fall herbicide programs have a wide application window and generally may be applied from harvest until the ground freezes. Once the ground freezes, weed growth will essentially have ceased limiting herbicide effectiveness, and there is an increased risk of residual herbicide runoff onto sensitive areas. Fall herbicides should not be applied to frozen ground. Optimum residual activity with residual herbicides is obtained when fall applications are delayed until soil temperatures are 50°F or cooler.



As with all herbicide programs there are some “Pros” and “Cons”, see the following:

Benefits of Fall Burndown Programs	Drawbacks of Fall Burndown Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides for a clean seed bed at planting time.<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Fields dry-out more quickly and have warmer seed beds.• Prevents winter annuals from going to seed in the spring.• Reduces selection pressure on herbicide tolerant or resistant weeds.• Provides seed beds that are less attractive to insects like cutworms and stinkbugs.• Some winter annuals are hosts for soybean cyst nematodes. Fall weed control can support programs to reduce SCN levels in fields.• Provides superior weed control versus spring applications for some perennial weeds including dandelions, Canada thistle, poison hemlock, pokeweed, quackgrass, alfalfa, etc.• Spreads workload and helps hedge against poor weather in the spring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fields that have heavy infestations of marestail, giant ragweed, lambsquarters and/or sunflowers may require burndown in the spring even if a fall program was utilized.• With a mild, wet winter conditions, microbial activity can break down residual herbicides making them ineffective against weeds that germinate in the spring.• Some herbicides options will lock you into a particular crop next year.• Cover crops may be appropriate on some highly erodible ground, not allowing the use of some fall herbicides.• May result in added costs if an additional preplant or early post burndown is still required next spring.



Fall Burndown Herbicide Efficacy

Herbicides	Common Chickweed	Purple Deadnettle Henbit	Marestail	Mustards/ Pennygrass Shepherd's purse	Canada Thistle	Dandelion	Prickly Lettuce	Alfalfa
2,4-D (0.5 / 1.0 lb ai)	---/---	---/8	8/9	8/9	---/6	6/7	8/9	---/7
Autumn™ Super + glyphosate	9	9	9	9	---	8	9	---
Brash®	7	8	9	9	7	7	9	8
Basis® + 2,4-D	9	8+	9	9	6	8	9	---
Canopy® + 2,4-D	7	9	9	9	---	9	9	---
Canopy® EX + 2,4-D	9	9	9	9	---	9	9	---
Envive® + 2,4-D	7	9	9	9	---	9	9	---
Express® + 2,4-D	9	8	9	9	6	7	9	---
Glyphosate	9	8	7	9	9	8	8	8
Glyphosate + 2,4-D	9	9	9	9	8	8	9	9
Glyphosate + Sharpen®	9	8	9	9	8	7	9	7
Dimetric® EXT + 2,4-D	7+	9	9	9	---	7	9	---
Simazine + 2,4-D	9	8+	9	9	---	8	9	---
Valor® + glyphosate + 2,4-D	9	9	9	9	8	8	9	8
Valor® XLT + 2,4-D	7	9	9	9	---	9	9	---

Note: 9 = 90-100%, 8 = 80-90%, 7 = 60-70%, 6 = 60-70%, --- = less than 60% control, not recommended.

Source: Adapted from 2017 Weed Control Guides for Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

This is intended as a quick reference and not a substitute for the label!**- Always read and follow the label! -**