

Wheat Promotion Board

Title: Weed Management in Wheat
Priority Area: Weed Control
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Data analysis from the 2002 - 2003 plot work is complete and a full final report has been submitted to the Wheat Promotion Board Members, Extension specialists, industry representatives and County Agents. As a result of this year and past research, the state of Arkansas again petitioned the EPA for a section 18 on the product Osprey for use in the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004. Osprey has provided excellent control of Hoelon resistant ryegrass for the past three years in our research program. Several other states also joined this petition. However, due to registration issues and the lack of an existing label in another crop being established this petition was denied. Hoelon resistant ryegrass continues to be the number one weed problem wheat farmers in Arkansas face. Plans are in place to re-apply for the Osprey section 18, if necessary, in the fall of 2004. Plans are also being developed to get a more accurate determination of the number of acres across the state infested with Hoelon-resistant ryegrass. Hopefully a comprehensive survey of the problem will aid in the justification for this much needed section 18.

To date, 10 wheat studies have been initiated for our 2003-2004 wheat weed control program. Five of these trials are located at our primary wheat research location on the Isgrig farm near Little Rock, three trials are located at the Hoelon resistant site near Willow Beach, and two studies are being conducted at a wild garlic and broadleaf weed site near Furlow, AR. In addition, we are cooperating with Dr. Jason Kelley on a Sencor tolerance screening of over 45 varieties at two locations (Little Rock and Woodruff County).

The focus of our weed control program for wheat continues to be in two major areas. These are Hoelon resistant ryegrass control and wild garlic control. Our program will continue to evaluate Clearfield Wheat and Beyond herbicide, however, due to the lack of development of a suitable soft red winter wheat variety for Arkansas this research will no longer be a major focus of the program. It could be as much as 2 -3 years before a variety is available. In the area of Hoelon resistant ryegrass control, much of our work will be evaluating Osprey herbicide application timings and potential tank mix partners. Osprey will also be tank-mixed with various broadleaf herbicides so that potential antagonism and efficacy can be evaluated. In 2002-2003, little antagonism was observed with these combinations. This could represent a savings to wheat growers by eliminating the need for two applications when Hoelon is used for grass control and broadleaf treatments are also needed.