



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

## Extension Agronomy

# eUpdate

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These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Steve Watson, Agronomy e-Update Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Steve Watson, 785-532-7105 [swatson@ksu.edu](mailto:swatson@ksu.edu), Jim Shroyer, Crop Production Specialist 785-532-0397 [jshroyer@ksu.edu](mailto:jshroyer@ksu.edu), or Curtis Thompson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-3444 [cthompso@ksu.edu](mailto:cthompso@ksu.edu).

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**1. Special Edition: Preharvest weed control in wheat - Reminder..... 3**

## 1. Special Edition: Preharvest weed control in wheat - Reminder

Late-season weeds in wheat continue to be a problem in many parts of Kansas as a result of the thin wheat crop and continued wet weather. No one wants to spend extra money on a below-average crop, but these weeds can make harvest very difficult. However, there continues to be a lot of questions about which herbicides are approved and the use guidelines and restrictions for preharvest treatments in wheat.

One herbicide that is sometimes mentioned as a preharvest treatment is paraquat. **Paraquat is not labeled for preharvest treatment in wheat.** Application of paraquat to wheat is an illegal treatment and can result in a quarantine and destruction of the harvested grain, along with severe fines.

Below are the various herbicide options producers can use as pre-harvest aids in wheat. There are differences in how quickly they act to control the weeds, the interval requirement between application and grain harvest, and the level or length of control achieved. All of them will require good thorough spray coverage to be most effective.

Product and rate	Advantages	Disadvantages	Comments
Aim EC (1 to 2 oz)	Acts quickly, usually within 3 days.  Short waiting interval before harvest – 3 days.	Controls only broadleaf weeds.  Regrowth of weeds may occur after 2-3 weeks or more, depending on the rate used.	Apply after wheat is mature. Always apply with 1% v/v crop oil concentrate in a minimum spray volume of 5 gal/acre for aerial application and 10 gal/acre for ground applications.  Do not apply more than 2 oz of Aim during the growing season.
Dicamba (0.5 pt)	Controls many broadleaf weeds.	A waiting period of 7 days is required before harvest.  Acts slowly to kill the weeds.  Controls only broadleaf weeds.	Apply when the wheat is in the hard dough stage and green color is gone from the nodes of the stem.  Do not use treated wheat for seed unless a germination test results in 95% or greater seed germination.
Glyphosate (1 to 2 pt of 3	Provides control of both	Acts slowly. May take up	Apply when wheat is in

lb ae/gal product)	grasses and susceptible broadleaf weeds.	to 2 weeks to completely kill weeds and grasses.  Cannot harvest grain until 7 days after application.	the hard dough stage (30% or less grain moisture).  Consult label for recommended adjuvants.  Not recommended for wheat being harvested for use as seed.
Metsulfuron (0.1 oz)	Provides control of susceptible broadleaf weeds.	Acts slowly.  Cannot harvest grain until 10 days after application.  Controls only susceptible broadleaf weeds.	Apply when wheat is in the dough stage.  Always apply with a nonionic surfactant at 0.25 to 0.5% v/v.  Generally recommended in combination with glyphosate or 2,4-D.  Do not use on soils with a pH greater than 7.9.  Weeds growing under limited moisture may not be controlled.  Do not use treated straw for livestock feed.
2,4-D LVE (0.67 to 1 qt of 4lb/gal product)	Provides control of susceptible broadleaf weeds.	Acts slowly. Weak on kochia and wild buckwheat.  Most products have a 14 day preharvest requirement.	Apply when wheat is in the hard dough stage to control large, actively growing broadleaf weeds.  Weeds under drought stress may not be controlled.  Do not use treated straw for livestock feed.

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