**Late season planted cover crop tolerance to soybean herbicides**

Greg Endres, Kirk Howatt, Joseph Mettler and Mike Ostlie

Numerous considerations are needed to plan and utilize cover crops as part of farm management. Besides setting goals for cover crop use, field history of herbicides needs to be considered to avoid loss of cover crop stands due to herbicide residuals in the soil.

Previous research coordinated by the Carrington Research Extension Center resulted in a table that displayed various risk levels with planting cover crops on ground previously treated with wheat herbicides that have soil residues. A similar study followed to build a database indicating cover crop tolerance to soybean herbicides with potential soil residues.

In 2016, an initial trial was conducted in Fargo to determine the tolerance of common cover crops to selected corn and soybean herbicides. The soybean data from the trial were considered as a formal study was conducted at Carrington and Fargo during 2018-20. The study included nine soybean herbicides and eight cover crops. The study was financially supported by the North Dakota Soybean Council.

Soil and post-emergence herbicides were applied at labeled rates and timings to soybean. The crop was mowed during August (seed-fill stages) and cover crops direct planted into the soybean stubble generally late August to early September. Visual evaluation of injury (biomass and/or stand reduction) began generally in late September (3-4 months after application of herbicides).

The study resulted in a six site-year database that was summarized in the following table. The table is published in the NDSU Extension 2021 ND Weed Control Guide (p. 106).

|  |
| --- |
| Risk of cover crop injury due to soybean herbicides with soil residual, Carrington and Fargo, 2016-20.1 |
| Site-years | Herbicide  | Risk of cover crop injury  |
| Barley | Winter rye | Field pea | Flax | Radish | Turnip | Lentil | Rapeseed/Canola |
|  | **Soil** |
| 6 | Sencor 75 DF | Low | Low | Low | Low | Medium | Medium | Low | Low |
| 6 | Spartan 4F | Low | Low | Low | Low | High | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| 6 | Valor SX | Low | Low | Low | Low | High | High | Low | High |
| 6 | Zidua SC | Low | Low | Low | Low | Medium | Low | Low | Medium |
| 5 | Pursuit | Low | Low | Low | High | High | High | Low | Low |
|  | **POST** |
| 5 | Engenia | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 6 | Flexstar  | Low | Low | Low | Low | High | Medium | Low | Medium |
| 2 | Liberty 280  | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 2 | Raptor | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| 1Low risk = 0-20% injury; Medium risk = 21-50% injury; and High risk = >50% injury. Greatest injury recorded for each treament was used to determine risk level. |

All herbicides, except Liberty 280, injured cover crops. Barley, winter rye and field pea had the greatest tolerance to herbicides. Radish, turnip and rapeseed/canola generally had the least tolerance to herbicides. These herbicides potentially have high risk of injury for cover crops: Spartan=radish; Valor=radish, turnip and rapeseed/canola; Pursuit=flax, radish and turnip; and Flexstar=radish.