

Stress Use of Herbicide To Eliminate Quackgrass

Reports from the University of Wisconsin indicate that while quackgrass is tougher to eliminate than most other weeds, the answer to its control lies in a split application of a herbicide this spring.

The careful selection and application of the proper herbicide is all important to the success of the program. Dr. K. Buchholz, the University's Agronomy staff states that while many weed killers check growth in quackgrass, they do not fully destroy the root reserves which support new growth and thus do not really eliminate the problem.

In states where persistent quackgrass is a problem—Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, northern Indiana and northern Illinois—it can be effectively controlled with Atrazine. He recommends a split application of the product, applying in the early spring months, first as a pre-plant application and

followed by a planting-time treatment.

A three-step program should be followed.

1. As early as possible, to get on the land this spring, apply a broadcast spray of 2½ pounds of Atrazine 80W. Dr. Buchholz recommends that application be made prior to April 1 if possible.
2. Wait about a month after the application before plowing. Then plow and prepare the seedbed in the normal manner.
3. At the planting time (or after planting until weeds are 1½" high) apply another broadcast spray of 2½ pounds of Atrazine 80W. Dr. Buchholz likes to aim for no later than May 10 planting date in his state. This split application not only gives top-notch control of the quack but also gives control of most annual broadleaf weeds and grasses through the growing season.

Dr. Buchholz points out that it's important to get plenty of water on per acre. He says that it has been his experience that between 20 and 80 gallons per acre are the most consistent results.

It is also important to remember that on corn land that has received this split application totaling 5 pounds of Atrazine 80W, the land should again go into corn the following year.

If the farmer is going onto land that has not been cropped for a number of years—say, for instance, a heavy litter may have accumulated. Under these conditions, it is especially important that there be sufficient rainfall to carry the herbicide down through the plant residue down through the zone to the weed germinating zone. The same conditions exist when the soil contains a high concentration of organic matter or has a heavy manure cover.

Some farmers, particularly those who fall plow, have excellent results with applying the first Atrazine spray before the fall plowing and the rest at planting time the following spring. Dr. Buchholz says, however, that the two spring applications of Atrazine provide just as good control potential. You won't see any difference at all," he stated. "For most effective control, the first application of the Atrazine should be made about a month in advance of plowing to weaken and kill the quack before planting time."

Check Banks For Financing of Landscaping

Anyone who owns a home can finance landscaping on his grounds by applying for a loan under Title 1 of the Federal Housing Act; government-insured loans can be made up to \$3,500 for landscaping.

Most large nurseries will arrange for financing at local banks if the home owner desires it.

The best procedure is to find out how much the cost of landscaping will be from a nurseryman or landscape architect, then apply to a bank for a loan.

It is preferable to have a plan for the landscape if any considerable sum is to be spent.

As a rule of thumb, a first-rate landscaping job should not cost less than five percent of the value of the home.

Landscaping costs can be added to a mortgage or monthly payment if the same bank handles both the home and the mortgage.

This holds true generally for Savings and Loan Associations as well.

Know How to Buy to Save

Consider about the amount of meat to plan for dinner cuts. In general, one-quarter pound serving of boneless meat—ground meat, rolled rōast, boned roasts, stew meat and liver—should be adequate. Better allow one-half pound per person for dinner cuts, that is, bone-in roasts, steaks, chops, and ham. And, plan on three-quarters to one pound per serving of bone meat—short ribs, spare ribs, and lamb shanks.

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