HERBICIDE RESISTANCE IN ALBERTA: A GROWING THREAT

With limited growing space and an eye on achieving the maximum possible yield, we are all aware how important it is to ensure that our crops are not competing with unwanted weeds. On larger fields in which hand-weeding is impractical, the development of a wide range of herbicides has allowed us to limit the growth and propagation of these weeds for increased productivity and profitability.

Just as our crops are able to tolerate many of these herbicides, weeds can naturally develop resistant traits over successive generations due to natural selection. This builds tolerance to the selected mode of action of the herbicide, and the weed eventually becomes resistant to their effect. The result is increased weed development and lower crop yield, as well as increased tillage, fuel and labour causing higher farming costs. Worse still, once resistance has formed it significantly reduces or eliminates that herbicide as a weed control option.

WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION NOW TO PREVENT FURTHER RESISTANCE!

WEED RESISTANCE IN CANADA: UPDATE

Cases of herbicide resistance are becoming increasingly common, with over 58 weed biotypes reported in Canada, 22 of these biotypes are present in Alberta. Group 9 (EPSP Synthase Inhibitors) is of particular interest – since *Kochia* biotypes have been confirmed to exhibit glyphosate resistance – and this may pose a serious risk for the future in the prairies.

HERBICIDE GROUPS MOST AT RISK

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 9
ACCASE	ALS	EPSP SYNTHASE
INHIBITORS	INHIBITORS	INHIBITORS
EXTENT OF RESISTANCE	EXTENT OF RESISTANCE	EXTENT OF RESISTANCE
Globally: 42 Species	Globally: 129 Species	Globally: 24 Species
Canada: 4 Species	Canada: 25 Species	Canada: 5 Species
RESISTANCE SPECIES IN	RESISTANCE SPECIES IN	RESISTANCE SPECIES IN
ALBERTA	ALBERTA	ALBERTA
Green foxtail Persian darnel Wild oat	Ball mustard Chickweed Cleavers Cow cockle Green foxtail Hemp-nettle Narrow-leaved- 	Kochia

HIGH RISK RESISTANT WEEDS IN ALBERTA

WILD OAT

First demonstrated resistance to Group 8 herbicides in 1989. Wild oat has since evolved to show extensive resistance to Group 1 and growing resistance to Group 2 herbicides.

HERBICIDE RESISTANCES

Group 1 (ACCase Inhibitors) Group 2 (ALS Inhibitors) Group 8 (Fatty Acid & Lipid Biosynthesis Inhibitors)

CLEAVERS

First developed resistance to Group 4 herbicides in 1996. Cleavers have evolved multiple resistance to both Group 2 and Group 4 herbicides.

HERBICIDE RESISTANCES

Group 2 (ALS Inhibitors) Group 4 (Synthetic Auxins)

KOCHIA

Group 2 resistant kochia was first confirmed in 1988.

Now considered to be predominately resistant to Group 2 chemistry and past AAFC surveys have confirmed resistance levels upwards of 90%. In 2012 kochia resistant to both Group 2 and Group 9 herbicides was identified.

HERBICIDE RESISTANCES

Group 2 (ALS Inhibitors) Group 9 (EPSPS Inhibitors)





AT RISK RESISTANT WEEDS IN ALBERTA



In the fight against herbicide resistance, it's important to know how the problem developed to prevent it from developing further.

HERBICIDE RESISTANCE IN ALBERTA HAS BEEN STEADILY ON THE RISE



Today, herbicide groups that are encountering resistant weeds are predominantly Group 2 (ALS Inhibitors), with Group 1 (ACCase Inhibitors) and Group 4 (Synthetic Auxins) on the rise. Though there have been reported cases of resistance to Group 3 (Cell Division Inhibitors), Group 8 (Fatty Acid & Lipid Biosynthesis Inhibitors) and Group 9 (EPSP Synthase Inhibitors), they are limited.

BREAKDOWN OF THE 16 RESISTANT WEEDS FOUND IN ALBERTA



Source: Heap, I. WeedScience.org, 2014

HOW CAN WE TAKE ACTION?

It's of utmost importance that herbicide resistance is stopped before it becomes unmanageable. Through increased crop rotation, the use of diverse and multiple modes of action, and early identification of resistant weeds, we can limit the development and growth of new resistant biotypes. This will ensure that treatment options in the future are still available.

Unique modes of action that have been widely accepted to effectively manage herbicide resistance include:

