

Wisconsin Crop Manager

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occurs when herbicides react with soil water. When soil water becomes limited, chemical degradation of herbicides is reduced.

What to do if you are planting winter wheat this fall?

If you are considering planting winter wheat this fall in fields that were drought stricken, first check your herbicide records and determine which herbicide(s) were applied this growing season. Next check herbicide labels and A3646 *Pest Management in Wisconsin Field Crops* for rotational crop information. Many of the most common herbicides used in short season crops such as sweet corn, silage corn, soybeans, and processing crops have a rotation interval (time from application to planting the rotational crop) of 3 to 4.5 months (Table 1). If these herbicides persist under drought conditions, the risk of winter wheat injury increases.

Are there ways to reduce the risk of herbicide carryover?

One way to reduce potential herbicide carryover is using tillage. Tillage helps to dilute a residual herbicide by mixing it within the soil profile. If planting winter wheat this fall on fields with potential herbicide carryover, consider thorough tillage prior to planting. Also consider altering your crop rotation to a more tolerant crop as specified by the herbicide label. Lastly, watch the weather. If the drought continues into the fall, the potential for herbicide carryover in susceptible spring seeded crops may exist.

Table 1. Selected silage corn, sweet corn, snap bean, and pea herbicides and the time interval from herbicide application until winter wheat may be planted. Under extreme drought conditions, the risk of potential carryover injury may still exist after these intervals (based on our estimation).

Herbicide Carryover and the Drought - Rotational Restrictions for Winter Wheat

Dean Volenberg and Chris Boerboom, Door County Extension Agent and Extension Weed Scientist

Although some areas of the state have received normal or above normal rainfall throughout the growing season, many areas have experienced brief or prolonged drought conditions. During a drought, herbicides do not degrade as fast as under normal soil moisture conditions thereby increasing the chances of injuring succeeding susceptible crops. Several factors determine the persistence of a herbicide.

How does dry weather increase the persistence of many herbicides?

The length of time that a herbicide persists is dependent on: 1) the chemical properties of the herbicide, 2) the soil type and organic matter content, and 3) the environmental conditions (temperature and moisture) that occur after herbicide application. During a drought, the herbicide is not available for plant uptake and metabolism. Lack of soil moisture also limits soil microbe populations which play a major role in the degradation of most herbicides. Herbicides are also strongly adsorbed to soil particles as soil moisture declines. Therefore, as soil moisture declines, herbicides become unavailable for plant and microbe degradation. It is worth noting that some herbicides are degraded by chemical decomposition in a process called hydrolysis. Hydrolysis

Herbicide	Rotational interval	Increased carryover risk to wheat under drought
Accent	4 months	X
Accent Gold	4 months	X
Aim	0	
Assure II	120 days	
Atrazine and atrazine + grass herbicide premixtures	2 years	X
Banvel	After harvest	
Basagran	None listed	
Buctril	30 days	
Callisto	120 days	
Camix	4.5 months	
Celebrity Plus	4 months	X
Command	12 months	X
Clarity	30 days	
Define	12 months	
Distinct/Status	30 days	
Dual II Magnum	4.5 months	
Eptam	After harvest	
Harness	After harvest	
Hornet	4 months	
Intrro	After harvest	
Impact	3 months	
Liberty	70 days	
Lumax	4.5 months	X
Marksman	10 months	X
NorthStar	3 months	X
Option	60 days	
Outlook	4 months	
Poast	0	
Prowl	120 days	X
Pursuit	3 months	X
Pursuit Plus	4 months	X
Sandea	2 months	
Raptor	3 months	
Reflex	4 months	
Steadfast	4 months	X
Steadfast ATZ	10 months	X
Surpass/Topnotch	4 months	
Thistrol	None listed	
Treflan	12 to 18 months	X
Yukon	2 months	

Note: Some rotational intervals are established to prevent illegal herbicide residues in the rotational crop even though the crop is not at risk of being injured.

Paul Esker Joins Plant Pathology

Craig Grau and Paul Esker, Plant Pathology

It is my pleasure to introduce the newest member of the Department of Plant Pathology, Paul Esker. Dr. Esker will officially start September 1 as an Assistant Professor and Field Crops Extension Plant Pathologist. He has prepared the following statement about himself and his future plans. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Paul if the opportunity arises.

Statement by Paul Esker

Who am I? Originally from Wisconsin, I grew up around Wausau, specifically Weston. After graduating from D. C. Everest Sr. High School in Schofield, I started my University education at the UW-Marathon County before transferring to UW-Madison where I graduated in 1998 with a degree in Genetics and Bacteriology. It was while at Madison that I first developed my interest for plant pathology, which led me to move into that field for my graduate studies. After graduation, I pursued my graduate education at Iowa State University, first completing my M.S. in 2001 in Plant Pathology, and subsequently, my Ph.D. in 2005 with a co-major of Plant Pathology and Statistics. My thesis research (both degrees) focused on Stewart's wilt (or Stewart's disease) of corn. This research emphasized a mix of plant pathology, entomology, and climatology. Overall, this research helped improve our understanding of the number of corn flea beetle (vector) generations in Iowa, the role of seed insecticides and planting date on reducing the risk of Stewart's wilt, and the development and validation of potential disease forecasting models using seed corn inspection data and an economically based approach for validation. Before returning "home" to UW, I have spent the past 1.5 years conducting research on soybean rust. This research has taken me between the U.S. and Brazil and is one project that I will continue to work on while at UW-Madison. I would be glad to discuss any of my research work with you!

What are my goals at UW-Madison? My goals as the Field Crops Extension Plant Pathologist emphasize increasing our understanding of how plant pathogens affect field crop production. There has been lots of interest in the role of fungicides in corn and soybean, and I hope to tackle this question in more detail. But, I also recognize that there are many plant pathogens that are currently affect field crop production and for which management tactics are more limited. Because of this, some of my Extension and Research goals include approaching field crop production through a systems approach (for example, cultivar by tillage by rotation) in order to determine the timing and effect of plant pathogens on field crops. I also hope to implement field training programs for the sampling and diagnosis of field crop diseases. Another area of interest is to integrate such new disease information with current management recommendations in order to determine the economic cost-benefit of different disease management tactics.

Finally, I am excited by the opportunity to work with Wisconsin agricultural producers. I cannot think of a more wonderful place to be able to work at and I welcome your questions, emails, and phone calls!

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Floods, Droughts and Crop Insurance: Alternative Uses of Insured Crops

**Paul D. Mitchell, Agricultural and Applied Economics,
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Wisconsin weather has been full of surprises this summer—long dry spells and drought in many parts of the state, as well as record rainfalls and flooding in many places. As a result, many farmers have or expect to have crop losses. This bulletin is a quick summary of things to remember for farmers who bought crop insurance for their corn and/or soybeans.

Dry conditions or drought has led to poor pollination and/or low yields, so that some farmers are wondering if it wouldn't be better to make their corn into silage. Also, some farmers are wondering about making silage out of their soybeans, since they need forage and soybean yields will be low because of drought or dry weather. On the other hand, recent heavy rains and associated winds have caused corn to lodge in many places. As a result, some farmers are thinking about chopping their corn to pick it up better, or even pasturing it to get some feed value. Also, some farmers have corn underwater or washed out from flooding. This bulletin gives a few things farmers who insured their crops should remember about their weather damaged crops. The main point is that you should **always contact your crop insurance agent if you have questions.**

If You Have a Loss

If your insured crop has a loss, you must file a notice of damage within 72 hours of discovery (not occurrence). Filing this notice is done through your crop insurance agent, who will provide guidance on how you should proceed. **If you**

think you have a loss, contact your crop insurance agent, and follow the directions you receive. You may be required to leave a sample of the crop in the field of a specific size for a specified length of time. Cooperate with the loss adjusters by allowing them to visit the damaged crop and to remove crop samples and by providing requested records and documents. There may be several requirements, so work closely with your crop insurance agent to ensure that coverage is not lost due to a technical issue.

You must continue to protect the crop from further damage. For example, you cannot abandon the crop and let livestock graze it. You can receive permission to graze an insured crop, but you may forfeit indemnities if you graze it without permission.

Aflatoxin or other grain quality issues due to drought, flooding, and similar stresses are insurable causes of loss and you may receive an indemnity. **If you think or suspect you have aflatoxin, mycotoxins, mold, or other grain quality problems, contact your crop insurance agent before you harvest the grain, place harvested grain in storage, or deliver it for sale.** Loss adjusters will need representative samples from the standing crop for determining indemnities.

Farmers who insured their corn for silage can receive an indemnity not only if their silage yield is low, but also if their silage is grain deficient. **If you believe your silage is grain deficient, contact your crop insurance agent.**

Alternative Uses of Insured Crops

Wisconsin farmers who buy crop insurance for corn must declare it as either corn for grain or corn for silage. Soybeans are by default insured as grain. **Insured corn and soybeans can be used for silage, forage, or grazed and you can still receive an indemnity if one is due, but you must first receive permission for an "Alternative Use" of the insured crop.** You do not have to use the forage yourself, but can sell it. Put a listing in a local newspaper or on a local radio station, contact local dairy farmers directly, or put a listing on the UW-Extension Farmer to Farmer Hay, Forage, and Corn List at <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/index.cfm>, or contact your local UWEX county agent.

If you want to chop or graze soybeans or corn insured as grain, the process works as follows. **First, contact your crop insurance agent and explain what you want to do.** If you chop or graze your insured crop without first receiving permission from your agent, you may forfeit any insurance indemnity you would have received. An insurance adjuster will visit your fields to assess your yields. If it is too early to estimate grain yield, you will likely be required to leave unchopped or ungrazed strips that later will be used to estimate your grain yield to determine your indemnity. If these strips have high enough yields, you will not receive an indemnity. An adjuster will assess your yields and explain your options. Choose the option that seems best to you and follow the required procedures so that you receive any indemnity you are due.

Note that using drought stressed crops for forage, silage, or grazing can be different than normal crops. Be sure to follow guidelines available on the UW Extension Responds-Drought

2007 webpage (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/drought/>) to avoid problems such as nitrate toxicity or aflatoxins. Contact you local UWEX county agent for more information or guidance.

For More Information

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Paul D. Mitchell's Extension Web Page:

<http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/extension.htm>.

An Overview of Federal Crop Insurance in Wisconsin.

http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/Federal_Crop_Insurance_in_Wisconsin.pdf

Drought and Alternative Uses of Insured Crops: Can I Chop My Insured Corn for Silage?

http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/Insurance_and_Silage.pdf

UW Extension Responds-Flood August 2007:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/ExtensionResponds-Flood-August2007.html>

UW Extension Responds-Drought 2007:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/drought/>

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USDA-RMA Aflatoxin and Crop Insurance Fact Sheet:

http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/mn_rso/2007/2007stpaulaflatoxin.pdf.

