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### ***Herbicide Evaluations***

The University of Tennessee recently published results of a 2019 herbicide evaluation of palmer amaranth population susceptibilities to dicamba. One set of populations was from seed collected years ago and susceptible to dicamba. Other populations were from farms that experienced 2019 weed control issues at levels not seen in the past.

If interested in the full results, drop me a line and I'll send it to you. The short story is this: 1) three fourths of the populations saw great control from dicamba. It's still a good active ingredient. 2) Even under ideal application conditions, there were populations that saw less than 90 percent control – leaving five to ten percent of the population to survive. It's concerning, particularly since these were greenhouse evaluations where efficacy rates are generally superior to those seen in the field. 3) When reduced product rates were applied, populations never exposed to dicamba saw good control levels. Populations exposed to dicamba in 2019 saw drastically reduced control. This suggests that palmer amaranth has seen an increase in dicamba tolerance over (a short) time and underscores the need for following label rates.

To some, this work suggests that dicamba isn't working. Maybe in some cases, but a likely larger problem is overuse of a single product or reliance on a single group of herbicides. That type of overuse continues to 'steal' good products from our weed control arsenal.

If you haven't looked at the new products on the market, check them out to see what they have to offer and whether they can add diversity to your current program. KSU Extension Weed Scientist Dr. Sarah Lancaster recently compiled a list of the newer products for a KSU eUpdate article at [https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr\\_social/article/update-on-new-herbicides-for-kansas-crops-in-2020-377-2](https://webapp.agron.ksu.edu/agr_social/article/update-on-new-herbicides-for-kansas-crops-in-2020-377-2) . Four of the products have soybean labels that could apply in our area.

NOTE: while palmer amaranth is not the same as our more common waterhemp, it is not uncommon for related weeds to exhibit similar response issues. Product labels supersede information compiled in the aforementioned article. *Always* read and follow label directions.

### ***Proper Timing for Crabgrass Preventers***

Crabgrass preventers are preemergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. With few exceptions, they have no effect on existing crabgrass plants, so they must be applied prior to germination. They often don't last all season, either, meaning timing of application is important.

Most crabgrass begins to germinate in early May, making April 15th a good preventer application target date. You can also apply at full bloom of the Eastern Redbud tree. For most products, initiate a second application in eight weeks.

What if you miss the application window? Two products – dithiopyr and prodiamine can both be applied prior to April 15 and still exhibit sufficient season long residual strength. Dithiopyr may even have some efficacy on crabgrass up to the two- to three-leaf stage.

Note: Always read and follow product labels. If possible, apply crabgrass preventers *before* fertilizer to prevent excessive early turf growth. Avoid application to newly seeded lawns unless allowed by product label.