

Wheat Promotion Board

Title: Weed Management in Wheat
Priority Area: Weed Control
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Data analysis from the 2001 - 2002 plot work is complete and a full final report has been submitted to the Wheat Promotion Board Members, Extension specialists, industry representatives and County Agents. As a result of this year and past research, the state of Arkansas petitioned the EPA for a section 18 on the product Falcon for use in the fall of 2002 and spring of 2003. Falcon has provided excellent control of Hoelon resistant ryegrass for the past two years in our research program. Several other states also joined this petition. However, due to registration issues and the lack of a temporary tolerance being established this petition was denied. Hoelon resistant ryegrass continues to be the number one weed problem wheat farmers in Arkansas face. Plans are in place to re-apply for the Falcon section 18 if necessary in the fall of 2003.

To date, eleven wheat studies, three oat studies and two fall burn-down trials have been initiated for our 2002-2003 wheat weed control program. Five of these trials are located at our primary wheat research location on the Isgrig farm near Little Rock, three trials are located at the Hoelon resistant site near Willow Beach, and two oat weed control studies are being conducted near Lonoke. In addition, we have added a new wheat weed control location at a wild garlic and broadleaf weed site near Jonesboro, AR. This location will have one oat, three wheat, and two burn-down trials.

The focus of our weed control program for wheat continues to be in two major areas. These are Hoelon resistant ryegrass control and wild garlic control. Our program will continue to evaluate Clearfield Wheat and Beyond herbicide, however, due to the lack of development of a suitable soft red winter wheat variety for Arkansas this research will no longer be a major focus of the program. It could be as much as 2 -3 years before a variety is available. In the area of Hoelon resistant ryegrass control, much of our work will be evaluating Falcon herbicide application timings and potential tank mix partners. Falcon will also be tank-mixed with various broadleaf herbicides so that potential antagonism and efficacy can be evaluated.

Due to previous failures in establishing cheat trials, we initiated a cheat seed increase site this year. Cheat continues to be problem in several localized areas in Arkansas. Cheat weed control locations can be difficult to establish in Arkansas due to variability in emergence. We hope that by obtaining a consistent seed source we can expand our program with at least two cheat locations next fall.