

Control Alfalfa Weeds

Do not let weeds steal your alfalfa!

Winter annual weeds have been growing actively and will be a major problem in many alfalfa fields. The long growing season and the cool, moist conditions this fall favored seed germination and weed growth, according to Robert A. Powers Jr, Chester County ag agent, and Glenn A. Shirk, associate agent.

Chickweed, shepherds purse, field peppergrass and pennycress are the winter annual weeds to be concerned about. These weeds can be costly; they cause thin stands. They reduce crop yields and forage quality. The dense, matty growth of chickweed smothers out the alfalfa, and it interferes with harvesting and curing.

Many of these weeds are small now and may not appear to be much of a problem. However, this is the best time to control them!

If they are not controlled now, they will continue to grow this winter, and they could become a real serious problem by next spring. Then, it will be too late to control them or to correct the damage they may have done to the alfalfa stand, the Extension agents warn.

Three control materials are recommended; information can be obtained from your local Extension agent.

Select one that fits your specific weed and crop situation. They will do a fairly good job if applied now.

However, do not expect a 100 per cent weed control — the kind of control you often see in corn. With forage crops, an 85 per cent kill is very good.

A few intentional skips at spraying time can be proof that these sprays do help.

For best results:

1. Apply after alfalfa is dor-

mant — after the second killing frost.

2. Get good coverage:

— Use 20 - 40 gallons of water per acre.

— Spray at a pressure of 30 - 40 pounds per square inch.

— Spray nozzles should be 18 - 22 inches above the weeds.

— Avoid overlaps of sprayer boom.

— Distribute fertilizers containing herbicides evenly.

3. Use recommended materials according to directions.

Meeting Cancelled

The December 16, Pennsylvania Started Pullet Symposium IV has been cancelled. This statewide meeting was to be held at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

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16	Ea.	6.40
18	Ea.	7.56
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6 x 6 - 14	Ea.	8.40
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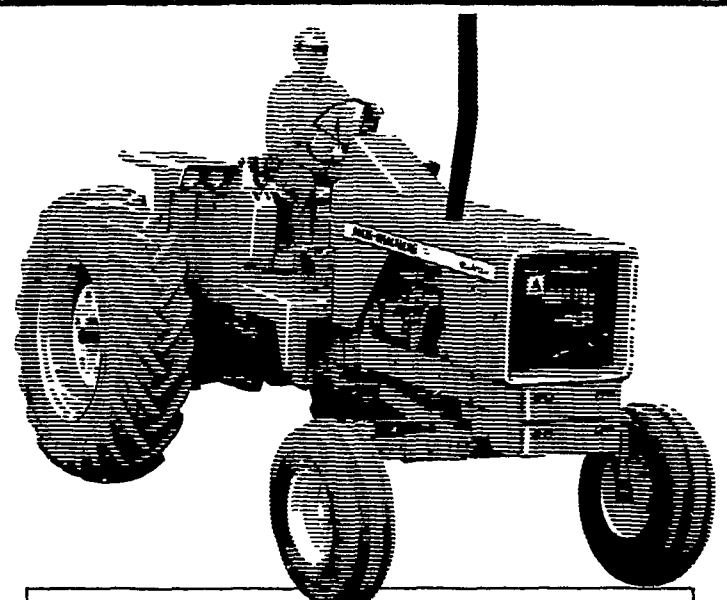
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