

AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

NEWSLETTER

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association
through a grant from the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.*

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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

Controlling Herbicide-Resistant Weeds Takes Careful Planning, Partnership

Herbicide resistance is a critical concern for anyone involved in agriculture. Over the last several decades, high selection pressure from low diversity cropping systems and herbicide programs have led to the development of herbicide resistance in several areas of the country. Growers in Michigan face fewer challenges with herbicide-resistant weeds compared to other regions, but several species and resistance types can be found in the state.

This problem threatens all crops, and many in the agriculture industry have worked together to develop widely recognized best practices to control herbicide resistance. Cultural practices such as starting clean, rotating herbicide modes of action, and considering mechanical control options are important components of successful weed management plans. Consultation with crop advisors and university agronomists is vital to tailor management plans to specific site conditions.

Proper management relies upon a core set of best practices, including:

Knowing the weeds in your field for each crop, including understanding how the weeds grow and how seeds can remain viable. That knowledge will enable you and your crop advisor to develop effective weed control strategies.

Utilizing diverse cropping systems and herbicide chemistries to prevent an overreliance on any single control option. Rotating crop herbicide traits or simply altering the modes of action used in a field can prevent the high selection pressures that led to herbicide resistance.

Attention when spraying to control weeds early, properly mix and apply tank mixtures, and watching environmental conditions to minimize drift and maximize herbicide efficacy are crucial for success.

Maintaining a back-up plan to prevent seed production in the event of weed escapes. Additional control measures such as cultivation or hand-weeding, including around field edges and in ditch banks, may be necessary to ensure complete control.

Done properly, herbicide applications can increase yield and boost profit. However, when used incorrectly, money isn't just wasted on herbicide that doesn't make it to a crop – it can have tremendous impacts in future years with the development of resistant weeds. A careful plan for herbicide application will always ensure better results in the long run. Certified Crop Advisors are always a good resource as herbicide applications are planned and executed.

For more information, visit www.takeactiononweeds.com.



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