



Producers know that great wheat crops are the result of having a plan to ensure the crop has the best possible start. Seeding depth, firm seed bed, fertilizer supply, seed treatment and early moisture are many of the factors that determine the end quality and yield of the crop. What is often overlooked though is the loss of yield and fertilizer due to not having a plan for controlling early emerging wild oats.

Advantages of early wild oat removal

Research conducted by John O'Donovan at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, Alberta showed that when wild oat populations of 20 plants per square metre (two plants per square foot) are one leaf stage ahead of a wheat crop, yield losses of 19 per cent can occur if left untreated. This compares to an 11 per cent yield loss if they emerge at the same time as the crop. If the wild oats are one leaf stage behind the crop, the yield loss drops to seven percent. Similar trends are seen with other crops.

Ensuring the least amount of wild oat competition before and during your wheat crop emergence needs to therefore be a part of everyone's plan, particularly with the increase in reduced tillage systems in Western Canada.

Early wild oat removal saves your fertilizer for your crop.

Using the assumptions:

Wild Oat Density: 30/sqft
Nitrogen price/lb: \$0.60/lb

Wild Oat Stage	Nitrogen Lost per Acre	Nitrogen Investment Lost per Acre
1 leaf	2.40 lb	\$1.44
2 leaf	3.70 lb	\$2.22
3 leaf	8.44 lb	\$5.06
4 leaf	11.72 lb	\$7.03
5 leaf	24.79 lb	\$14.87
6 leaf	32.32 lb	\$19.39

Values are calculated using 3rd party research from AgroTech Inc. (Velva, ND) in 2006 & 2007.

With current residual pre-seed products available, producers have been able to control many broadleaf weed species even after their pre-seed application, giving their crop a leading advantage.

Wheat producers now have that same advantage when it comes to having extended wild oat control in their pre-seed application. Pre-Pare Complete contains Pre-Pare (the same active ingredient found in Everest) paired with StartUp glyphosate in a convenient 60 acre pack. Its extended wild oat control gives wheat growers a chance to have wild oat control beyond their pre-seed application and have better opportunity to time wild oat control during an in-crop application.

This type of early wild oat removal:

1. saves your crop from competing with early emerging wild oats and thus protects yield
2. keeps the fertilizer around for your crop for critical plant and yield development

Having a plan for extended wild oat control within your pre-seed application before wheat helps reduce competition and protects your fertilizer investment. Using this strategy will naturally complement and enhance what you're already doing to ensuring your crop is off to its best possible start.