

Managing Pigweed in Cotton and Soybean Fields

The pigweed, or Amaranthaceae family, is one of the most common weed groups found in fields throughout the United States. Some weeds included in this family are: redroot pigweed, slender pigweed, tall waterhemp, common waterhemp and Palmer amaranth. Left uncontrolled, pigweed species can significantly reduce crop yields by competing with the crop for sunlight, water and nutrients, and by causing problems at harvest.

Management

To manage pigweed species in Genuity™ Roundup Ready® Flex Cotton, Roundup Ready® Cotton or Roundup Ready® Soybeans, it is recommended to start the season with a clean field by controlling weeds with either a burndown herbicide treatment or preplant tillage. A herbicide with residual activity should also be applied early in the season to hold back weed emergence.

For optimum results utilizing Roundup Ready® technology, Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides should be applied at a minimum rate of 22 fl oz/acre when weed heights are 4 inches or less.

Environmental factors such as droughty or excessively hot conditions can reduce herbicide efficacy. Weeds that are becoming increasingly difficult to control, like many pigweed species, may need extra attention and require the incorporation of higher rates or different herbicides into management programs. The following information will provide tips and herbicide recommendations for tough-to-control pigweed species in cotton and soybean fields using Roundup Ready technology.

Practices to Manage Pigweed Species

Pigweeds are annual weeds which can quickly take over a field. The following management strategies will help in controlling pigweed populations.

- Start clean with a Roundup® brand herbicide burndown application or tillage.
- Control weeds early, before weed heights reach 4 inches.
- Use Genuity™ Roundup Ready® Flex Cotton, Roundup Ready® Cotton, or Roundup Ready® Soybean technology as your weed control foundation.
- Incorporate different herbicides and cultural practices as part of the Roundup Ready® cropping system.
- Always apply herbicides at recommended rates and timing, and work to control weeds efficiently throughout the season.

Herbicide Recommendations for Controlling Pigweed Escapes

Genuity™ Roundup Ready Flex® Cotton and Roundup Ready® Cotton

In-Season Clean Up - postemergence herbicide applications for pigweed species that escaped previous application or emerged late.

- Apply a post-directed tank mix of Roundup agricultural herbicide with Valor® (flumioxazin).
- If needed apply a second post-directed tank mix of Roundup agricultural herbicide with one of the following residual herbicides: Direx® (diuron), Cotoran® (fluometuron), or Caparol® (prometryn).

Refer to product labels for application rates and timing.

Roundup Ready® Soybean

In-Season Clean Up - postemergence herbicide applications for pigweed species that escaped previous application or emerged late.

- Apply Roundup WeatherMAX® or Roundup PowerMAX® at the highest recommended rate.
- Or tank mix Roundup agricultural herbicide with one of the following postemergence herbicides at the highest recommended rate: Flexstar® (fomesafen), Cobra® (lactofen), Resource® (flumiclorac) or Blazer® (acifluorfen).

Refer to product labels for application rates and timing.

Additional Tips for Managing Pigweed Species

1. Use more than 15 gallons per acre to get adequate spray coverage.
2. Ammonium sulfate (AMS) at 17 pounds per 100 gallons of spray solution can be added as a water conditioning agent to enhance glyphosate efficacy.
3. When pigweed species are present, use Roundup brand

agricultural herbicides at a minimum rate of 22 fl oz/acre applied on up to 4-inch weeds. Treating pigweed species that are greater than 6 inches in height may result in inadequate control.

4. Avoid traveling down previous sprayer wheel tracks.
5. Re-treating pigweed species when there has been no change in dry soil moisture or no visible root development could result in inadequate and inconsistent control.

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