

WINTER WEED MANAGEMENT IN THE MIDSOUTH

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Abstract

Winter weeds can be a serious problem for mid south growers at planting. Winter weeds have been shown to serve as over wintering sites for insects and nematodes as well as utilizing soil nutrients meant for crop growth. Surface covering of weeds can also lead to slower drying of the soil in the spring and delayed soil warm up. Each of these issues can delay planting, crop emergence and early season crop vigor. Controlling these weeds before they become large and established helps growers reach maximum crop yield helps growers reach maximum crop yield.

Recently, a trend in the mid south has been to apply burndown herbicides in the fall and utilize residual herbicides to maintain a weed free surface throughout the winter. This change has been primarily driven by the development of glyphosate-resistant horseweed. By controlling this weed in the fall, a grower is able to utilize herbicides efficiently when the weed is in the most sensitive stage of growth. Growers need to be aware of crop replant restrictions when using residual herbicides in the fall. Valor herbicide has been shown to be very effective in providing residual control of horseweed and other winter annual weeds such as henbit and chickweed while allowing the planting of cotton, corn, grain sorghum, peanut, rice, soybean or sunflower in the spring.