



How Wheat Growers Use Glyphosate

Wheat growers face many challenges to growing a quality crop that is sustainable and economically viable. One of these challenges is weeds. Glyphosate is one product commonly used by wheat growers that is very effective at controlling weeds prior to planting or after wheat is harvested.

What is Glyphosate?

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in many “non-selective” herbicide formulations used to control weeds. A non-selective herbicide controls most plants while a selective herbicide is designed to control specific types of plants. Non-Selective herbicides are used to control weeds before crop planting.

Glyphosate-based herbicides are frequently used by farmers because they are a simple and cost-effective way of controlling many types of weeds.

Is it safe to use?

Yes. Regulatory and scientific authorities worldwide have concluded that glyphosate, when used according to label directions, does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health, the environment, or non-target animals and plants.

Glyphosate has been thoroughly reviewed by regulatory agencies around the world. It is registered in more than 100 countries and has been on the market for four decades. It is backed by one of the most extensive worldwide human health, safety and environmental databases ever compiled for a crop protection product.

Glyphosate Use in Wheat is Limited

Glyphosate use is limited in the wheat industry, if even used at all in some wheat fields. In fact, for 2016, it was applied to 33 percent of wheat acres in the U.S., according to an independent consumer research firm, GfK. Typically, glyphosate application in wheat occurs during fallow times when a growing, eventually harvestable wheat crop is not present. The application rate and use of glyphosate in wheat is dependent on other production methods, such as no-till and minimum till planting systems.

For example, the percentage of acres managed as no-till has increased by more than 15 percent in the last 26 years in the Great Plains region of the U.S. This shift has led to an observed increase of glyphosate use in the industry to help control weeds, prior to planting the wheat crop, and preserve soil moisture; however, applications are still low compared to other commodity crops.

Wheat growers have options for controlling weeds and managing their crop, and herbicides are one tool in a grower's proverbial crop production “toolbox”.