

DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA
PREEMERGENT WEED CONTROL INFORMATION

Preemergent weed control materials are an effective way to control many annual weeds with a minimum of effort. However, the degree of control and the duration of effect can be affected by many factors, which include:

1. Type and amount of chemical applied
2. pH of the soil
3. Soil type and texture
4. Amount of organic material contained in the soil
5. Amount and timing of moisture
6. Intensity and duration of rainfall
7. Soil moisture
8. Soil temperature
9. pH of spray makeup water
10. Hardness of the spray makeup water
11. Soil disturbance

The length of control will vary, but season long control can be expected. Duration of control will also depend upon the chemical selected, the weed population pressure and the surrounding plants which must be protected.

Preemergent chemicals, whether applied as sprays or as dry granulars, require adequate amounts of moisture, either naturally by rain or snowfall or by irrigation to activate the herbicide. The chemicals should be watered into the soil to a minimum depth of ½ inch. A few herbicides may allow tillage incorporation. This incorporation places an unseen chemical barrier in the top layer of soil where germination occurs. The sooner after application the incorporation occurs the more effective it will be. After application and activation of the chemical, treated soil must be left undisturbed to avoid breaking the herbicide barrier.

Best results are obtained when application is made prior to emergence of weed seedlings. Post-emergent herbicides are frequently applied with the preemergent chemical to kill any weeds that may have germinated. These chemicals work by interfering with the growth process. The young plant absorbs chemical through roots, shoots or leaves and dies. ***Most preemergent chemicals are not effective against perennial plants***, since these plants already have an established root system...Examples of this type of weed include field bindweed (wild morning glory), Canada thistle, the various knapweeds and whitetop.

Occasionally, following the use of preemergent chemicals, some naturally occurring biotypes of certain species may not be effectively controlled. Weeds which do grow through a chemical application, should be treated with a contact herbicide or physically removed to prevent seed production.

People and animals are allowed on treated soils after the chemical spray has dried. Traffic should be limited as much as possible until after incorporation occurs. Grazing restrictions (if any) usually only apply to lactating dairy animals.

Materials may not be applied to frozen or snow covered soil. If rainfall occurs, the material may run-off to undesired areas.

Due to changing environmental regulations, concerns regarding ground water contamination and high water tables, chemicals which may have been used in the past may no longer be available for use on a particular piece of property or against a specific pest.

We attempt to use the most affective chemical, based on all known factors and environmental conditions at the time of application, always trying to choose the safest chemical for the conditions.

Revised 1/06/2009