

New Options for Grass and Grass-like Weed Control in Hayfields

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Grassy weeds are much more difficult to control in hayfields compared to broadleaf weeds. There are numerous selective herbicides that will control broadleaf weeds in hayfields. It is much harder to control a grass weed growing in a grass crop. However, recently there have been several new herbicides that have been approved for use in hayfields and pastures.

Prowl (pendimethalin)

Prowl is a pre-emergence product that provides good control of many annual grasses. It is a dinitroaniline herbicide that has been used for many years in row crops such as corn and soybeans. It was recently approved for use in established bermudagrass and bahiagrass. Prowl must be applied in the late winter before the weeds emerge. Prowl will not control weeds that have already emerged. Rainfall needs to occur within 10 days of application to prevent Prowl from volatilizing into the air. Prowl is the only selective herbicide that will control sandbur in bahiagrass. Prowl also provides good control of crabgrass, goosegrass and other summer annual grasses. It has a 60 day harvest restriction and 45 day grazing restriction.

Pastora (metsulfuron + nicosulfuron)

Pastora is approved for use only in bermudagrass. It will kill or severely damage pensacola bahiagrass. It is a pre-mix of the herbicides metsulfuron and nicosulfuron. These herbicides are both members of the sulfonylurea family. Metsulfuron has been sold for many years under the brand name of Cimarron. Nicosulfuron is new to the pasture market but was first approved for use in corn. Pastora provides good, post-emergence control of seedling sandbur and crabgrass. Treating sandbur and crabgrass that is greater than 4 inches will only suppress seedhead formation. Pastora will also control johnsongrass and vaseygrass. Vaseygrass will take several applications to control. Pastora may cause some slight stunting to develop in bermudagrass. However, it is significantly less than the stunting cause by imazapic. Pastora has no harvest or grazing restrictions.

Outrider (sulfosulfuron)

Outrider is another member of the sulfonylurea family. It is approved for use in established bermudagrass and bahiagrass. It can also be applied to newly sprigged bermudagrass. Outrider provides excellent post-emergence control of most sedges including the hard to kill purple nutsedge, and yellow nutsedge. It also delivers good control of johnsongrass. Outrider works best when the weeds are actively growing. Outrider does not provide broad spectrum weed control and should be used to target specific weed problems. Outrider has a 14 day harvest restriction and a 0 day grazing restriction.