

Chemical weed control (2)



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4. Ensure field conditions are suitable (e.g., some products only work when the soil is moist, or when there is standing water or no standing water).
5. Products are designed for early application when weed control is most important. Some products are designed to control the weeds before they emerge (pre-emergence), while others are only effective after the weeds have emerged (post-emergence).
6. Use the recommended rate of water.
7. Use clean water, fresh water
8. Uniformly apply product across the field: maintain steady pressure, a steady walking speed and uniform spray application action.
9. Ensure nozzles are functioning and providing uniform output.
10. Spray products from a height of around 50 cm above the target.
11. Minimize movement of the product to non-target areas by using low pressures (< 2 bars), by avoiding applications in very strong winds and by limiting water runoff from fields.
12. Spray perpendicular to the wind, so that product is blown away from the applicator.
13. Be sure to rotate the use of herbicides so weeds do not develop resistance

Limitations of Chemical/Herbicide Weed Control:

- Herbicides are toxic substances, which if used unwisely or incorrectly can cause health and environment problems
- Herbicides are often weed specific
- Weeds can develop herbicide resistance if farmers are too reliant on one type of herbicide
- Drift risk to neighbors crop
- Applicators require skills in application and calibration

Safety Considerations:

- ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. Use appropriate cover for head, eyes, nose, mouth and hands. Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants and covered footwear.
- Mixing product is the time of greatest concern as the product is in its most concentrated form.
- When mixing the product, always stand upwind and wear protective clothing – especially face protection.
- Wash contaminated cloths separately from other household cloths
- Clean blocked nozzles with a nonabrasive implement. NEVER clean nozzles by blowing on them with the mouth.
- Discard containers properly.

