

Late-Season Glyphosate Applications in Roundup Ready Sugarbeet

Glyphosate can be applied to Roundup Ready sugarbeet up to 30 days prior to harvest. Therefore, glyphosate should not be applied in any fields that will be harvested in the first two weeks of pre-harvest. There is certainly still time to apply glyphosate to sugarbeets that will not be harvested until October. The best time to apply the glyphosate is when 25 to 50% of the most frequent weed species in the field begins to flower. Applications of glyphosate at this time may not completely kill plants, but will negatively affect flower development and drastically reduce seed production. Seed production can even be reduced on glyphosate-resistant plants with a late-season application. If plants are present because of germination after the last glyphosate application then they are more likely to be completely controlled with this application compared to resistant plants. Determining whether to spray is difficult, because late-season weeds will most likely not reduce sugarbeet yield. However, a significant reduction in weed seed production will make weed control easier in the future, especially if the plants are glyphosate-resistant.

Glyphosate can be mixed with fungicides with no apparent injury to the sugarbeet or loss of weed control or disease control. However, Monsanto will not stand behind any such treatments if problems arise. Extensive research has not been conducted to be 100% confident that no problems will arise from such mixtures. Also, mixing glyphosate with a fungicide will increase the potential for drift since the fungicide should be applied with small spray droplets.