

July 8, 2009

CHANGE IN RATE APPLICATION FOR QUINSTAR 4L

Growers should be aware that we are not getting the results with QuinStar that we anticipated and make their spray purchases and decisions with that in mind.

Several growers have applied QuinStar 4L by chemigation, mist blower and backpack sprayer over the past few weeks. The reports thus far indicate NO effect on dodder as of yet. This is contrary to results seen in WI (both this year and last year). We are not entirely clear on why this is happening. One possible explanation is that QuinStar 4L contains a lower percent of active ingredient than the products used in WI. The material tested in WI was also a dry flowable; we opted to use a liquid (for ease of chemigation). As a first step to understand why we are not controlling dodder with 8 oz/A rate of QuinStar 4L, we have requested and have been granted a modification in the Section 18 Emergency Exemption.

Growers are now permitted to apply ONE **12 oz/A application ONLY IF they have applied 4 oz/A or less** of QuinStar thus far this year. If you already made one application at the 8 oz rate, you CANNOT apply the 12 oz rate. You cannot exceed a total of 16 oz/A for the season. This being said, **I cannot guarantee that this higher rate will be more efficacious than the 8 oz rate.** We have no data to support this rate for this formulation. Based on what we have seen so far, this would be especially true for chemigation. It is also just as possible that the liquid formulation (at any rate) is not as effective as the dry flowable material.

Based on WI's data from last year, applications made late postemergence (July 17, 2008) were much LESS effective than early postemergence applications (June 25, 2008), so the window of opportunity is closing. So, if you are going to apply QuinStar, apply ASAP. The Section 18 expires July 31, 2009.

Other options: If you have not already sprayed twice with Callisto, I would recommend using Callisto for postemergence dodder control instead of QuinStar at this point. If you have already used up your two Callisto sprays, you will have to decide if it is worth it for you to try the QuinStar at the 12 oz rate.

I do regret that some growers have not gotten the expected results with this material. I am certainly disappointed, too. As mentioned when the Section 18 was granted, we did not have a lot of experience with the product but based on the very preliminary results from WI and our lack of dodder control options, I felt that pursuing the use of QuinStar for 2009 was worthwhile. I remain committed to pursuing all possible and potential options to control this weed.

If you have any other questions or reports on QuinStar efficacy, please call me.

Hilary Sandler, 508.295.2212 x 21