



AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS
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Weed Control In Flax

FLAX

Flax does not compete well with weeds, so weed control is essential for obtaining high flax yields. Shallow early spring tillage to stimulate germination of annual weeds, followed by tillage operations to kill these weeds, and delayed seeding of flax has been a successful method of weed control. However,

the delay in seeding flax usually decreases yields. Therefore, appropriate preplanting and postharvest tillage, together with suitable weed control chemicals, should be used for best results (tables 1, 2, and 3).

Table 1. Suggestions for chemical weed control in flax not underseeded with a legume

Chemicals ¹	Pounds per acre of acid equivalent or active ingredient broadcast	Time of application	Remarks	Environmental Protection Agency limitations on use
MCPA amine or ester Dalapon	1/4 } 3/4 }	Flax 2 to 6 inches.	MCPA for broadleaves; dalapon for grasses; mixture of MCPA amine and dalapon for broad-leaf and grass control. Dalapon may injure flax.	None
EPTC (Eptam)	3	Preplanting incorporation.	Some flax injury has occurred. For annual grasses and some broadleaves.	None
Bromoxynil (Brominal, Buctril)	1/4 to 1/2	Flax 2 to 8 inches.	For annual broadleaves, smartweed and wild buckwheat in two- to four-leaf stage.	Do not graze for 30 days after treatment.

¹See table 5 for trade names of herbicides.

Table 2. Suggestions for broadleaf weed control in flax underseeded to a legume

Chemicals	Pounds per acre of acid equivalent broadcast	Time of application	Remarks	Environmental Protection Agency limitations on use
MCPA amine	1/8 to 1/4	Flax 4 to 6 inches tall. Not before legumes are 2 inches tall.	Legumes injured, canopy of crop or weeds reduces injury. Sweetclover injured.	None

WILD OAT CONTROL IN FLAX

Wild oat is very competitive with flax; if not controlled, it may reduce crop yields by one-third or more. A combination of cultural and chemical practices is needed for effective control.

Table 3. Chemicals for wild oat control in flax

Chemicals	Pounds per acre of active ingredient broadcast	Time of application	Remarks	Environmental Protection Agency limitations on use
diallate (Avadex)	1 1/2 to 2	Preplanting or pre-emergence.	Must be incorporated into soil. May be used where flax is underseeded with alfalfa or clover.	None
barban (Carbyne)	1/4 to 3/8	When wild oat is in two-leaf stage.	Do not spray barban after the 12-leaf stage of flax. Use the high rate for wild oat populations over 50 plants/sq. ft.	Do not feed flax straw from treated fields to livestock or graze treated fields until after harvest.

Table 4. Effectiveness of herbicides for weed control in flax¹

Herbicides	Performance rating of herbicide on weeds						
	Wild mustard	Wild buck-wheat, annual smartweeds	Canada thistle, perennial sowthistle	Pigweed, common lambsquarters, and ragweed	Annual grasses		Crop tolerance
					Wild oat	other	Flax
MCPA amine	G	F	F	G	N	N	G
MCPA ester	G	F	F	G	N	N	F
bromoxynil	F	G	N	G	N	N	F
dalapon	N	N	N	N	F	G	F
diallate	N	N	N	N	G	N	F
barban	N	N	N	N	G	N	F

¹P = poor, F = fair, G = good, N = no control.

Table 5. Herbicide names and formulations used in flax

Common name	Trade name	Concentration and commercial formulations ¹
MCPA	Several, mixtures	See product label
Dalapon	Dowpon M, Basfapon	5 lb/gal L, 74% WSP
EPTC	Eptam	6, 7 lb/gal L, 10% G
Bromoxynil	Brominal, Bucril	2 lb/gal L
Diallate	Avadex	4 lb/gal L, 10% G
Barban	Carbyne	1 lb/gal L

¹L = liquid, G = granular, WSP = water soluble powder.

CAUTION

Avoid repeated and prolonged contact with all herbicides, especially direct contact with skin and eyes. Check label directions and restrictions carefully. Avoid wind drift of herbicides to susceptible crops and ornamentals. This fact sheet is intended only as a summary of weed control information on flax. For more information, refer to the product label or to Extension Bulletin 400, "Cultural and Chemical Weed Control in Field Crops."

Trade names are used to identify herbicides. Omission of other trade names of similar herbicides is unintentional. Inclusion of a trade name does not imply endorsement, and exclusion does not imply nonapproval.

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