

Terminating Drought Stressed Wheat for Alternative Summer Crop Planting

April 13, 2011

Brent Bean, Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Amarillo

There are no good chemical options to kill drought stressed wheat. Glyphosate has proven to be the most effective material, however for glyphosate to be most effective, the wheat must be actively growing. Tillage is not a particularly good option since tillage in dry soil will tend to produce large clods resulting in very poor soil conditions for planting an alternative summer crop. Below are some thoughts to consider:

- If drought stressed wheat is to be treated with glyphosate use a full rate of herbicide and consider using a 2X rate. Add 17 lb of spray grade ammonium sulfate per 100 gal of water to the spray mix.
- If possible, delay herbicide application until after a rainfall event and the wheat begins actively growing. This will improve the odds of getting a good kill with the glyphosate.
- If an attempt is made to kill wheat and 100 % control is not achieved, a second application may be necessary. However, wait for a rain event and the wheat is actively growing before applying the second application.
- Since glyphosate has no soil activity, alternative summer crops could be planted immediately following the herbicide application.
- If wheat heading is an issue with your insurance agent, consider shredding the wheat just prior to heading. Check with your insurance agent before wheat heads. Wait for a rain and then treat with glyphosate.
- **Whatever you do make sure your plans for terminating the wheat crop and planting the subsequent alternative summer crop have been approved by your insurance agent.**