

Controlling Weeds Around Livestock Barns

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Weeds are simply undesirable plants in a certain situation. Around agricultural facilities, any plants growing close to the barn could be considered a weed. These plants provide harborage and/or food sources for rodents, snakes and insects. Weeds prevent insecticides applied to the exterior of the barn from contacting the soil and side walls and, therefore, waste much of their application. Proper weed management can also reduce labor costs from mowing and increase speed of, or even eliminate, weed trimming.

Sanitation is an important aspect of rodent and insect integrated pest management. This includes the removal

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of harborage and food sources. Weeds can serve both of these purposes and, therefore, it is suggested that weeds and brush be kept to 3 inches or less to minimize these unnecessary bedding, nesting and food resources for pests.

Herbicides (chemical weed killers) provide an effective and economical means of weed control. Herbicides can

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selective when they are used to kill weeds while keeping desirable plants unharmed or nonselective when they are used to kill all vegetation. Both can be formulated as contact or translocated herbicides and as foliar sprays or granules that prevent weeds from germinating. Herbicides should be applied within at least one foot from the

foundation of agricultural facilities, but should not be applied past the drip line of the roof to prevent erosion.

TABLE 1. HERBICIDE USES AROUND LIVESTOCK BUILDINGS

MFR.	TRADE NAME	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	PERCENT OF ACTIVE	RATE	VOLUME (DILUTED PRODUCT)	SELECTIVITY	NOTES
CONTROL SOLUTIONS	Eraser™	Glyphosate	41%	2.5 oz/gal	1 gal/300 ft ²	Nonselective	Rainproof in hours
	Eraser™ A/P	Glyphosate	41%	0.7-13 oz/gal	Varies with target weed	Nonselective	Labeled for various crops
	Eraser™ Max	Glyphosate/ Imazapyr	43.68%/ 0.78%	0.74 oz/ 1-10 gal	1-10 gal/1000ft ²	Nonselective	Claims to kill weeds for up to 1 year
	Pramitol 25E	Prometon	25%	8-14 oz/gal	1 gal/500 ft ²	Nonselective	Best used as a pre-emergent
	TVC™	Imazapyr	27.80%	1 oz/gal	spray to wet but not runoff	Nonselective	Pre or post-emergent keeps seeds from germinating
BAYER	Hyvar®	Bromacil	22%	6 gal/acre	N/A	Nonselective	Rainfall after application is required for activation of Hyvar
	Roundup PROMAX®	Glyphosate	48.70%	0.5-9 oz/gal	spray to wet but not runoff	Nonselective	Visible effects within 1-2 days

Prior to using any product mentioned in this article, carefully read and follow all available instructions, warnings and safety information made available by the product's manufacturer.