

CROP NOTES for August 4, 2009 – Hail Damage & Gramoxone

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Iowa State University Extension Information for Northeast Iowa

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HAIL DAMAGE & GRAMOXONE

Exemption Label Announced to Aid Harvest of Hail-Damaged Corn

As of August 4, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) secured a crisis exemption label for the use of Gramoxone Inteon herbicide to use as a harvest aid on hail damaged corn in Northeast Iowa. Most of the current hail-damaged crop standing in the field is still >80% moisture. It was measured at 85% moisture on July 27 and does not appear to be drying down much on its own at this immature stage, eventhough it is heavy damaged by hail. The crop needs to be below 70% for proper ensiling. Gramoxone applied to standing hail-damaged corn will accelerate dry-down so that the crop can be harvested below 70% moisture.

The Section 18 Crisis Exemption label (the letter attached) will also soon be posted at the IDALS Pesticide Bureau Page at: <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/pesticides.asp> The Section 18 label states 1 to 2 pints per acre and a 7-day harvest interval. The Section 18 label will be in place for 15 days and the product application will not exceed 200,000 acres. This should not be a problem. Anyone deciding to use this product will likely do so within the next week. Be aware, this is a Restricted Use Product and is one of a few herbicides that require the use of a respirator to safely load the sprayer. The Section 18 label takes precedence in the products use, but follow the standard label for all other use requirements, and both the Section 18 label and standard label in possession at time of application. The standard label is available at: <http://www.cdms.net/LDat/ld77A053.pdf>

The main reason to use this product is to salvage heavily hail damaged corn in a timely manner as to allow a replanting of an emergency forage in early August to provide additional forage for the season. Checking first that the spring herbicide program used for the corn crop would allow these options, two possible options for emergency forage include: (1) planting of a small grain or (2) starting a new alfalfa stand.

1. Research data regarding planting of a small grain is nicely summarized by the University of Wisconsin in conducting trials using oats, barley, triticale, winter wheat and winter rye. Go to: http://soybean.uwex.edu/library/grain/forage/documents/small_grains_for_Fall_and_spring_forage.pdf
2. For establishment of alfalfa by mid-August in northeast Iowa, consider the following recommendations. Once again, double check on the corn or soybean herbicide program

used this spring to see if an alfalfa seeding would be allowed. Alfalfa should be seeded alone. A small grain nurse crop would likely be too competitive for soil moisture. Since the majority of weeds do not germinate very well this late in the season, there should be no need for a herbicide. The warm soil temperatures will get alfalfa off to a quick start, but since soil moisture may be a bit limiting, make certain to achieve excellent seed-to-soil contact when planting. It is highly recommended to use press-wheels or a cultipacker in the planting operation.

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