sakura®

Effective application

One of the outstanding features of Sakura® is its reliability, but this can lead to some users taking it for granted. It's important to understand how Sakura works so you can make sure you're setting up the right conditions for success.

1. Rainfall timing

The ideal time to apply Sakura and incorporate it by sowing is when significant rain is on the way. Sakura will remain on the soil surface for a long time, but it needs rainfall to carry it down into the weed seed zone to make sure germinating weeds get a lethal dose.

2. Trash load

Sakura should always be sprayed onto uncultivated soil, but make sure the trash load isn't too great. Weed control may be reduced if the stubble, plant residue or other ground cover is over 50%.

3. Recommended equipment

It is important to sow with knife points with press wheels or narrow points with harrows (as specified on the label) to minimise disturbance of the soil and reduce the risk of burying weed seeds – which will make them harder to control.

4. Sowing speed

If the seeder is travelling too fast, it can throw treated soil right across into the adjacent furrow, reduce control between the rows or cause damage to the crop. Taking it slowly and steadily ensures that you'll keep the Sakura in the inter-row, where it's most needed.

To find more information and short videos on specific application issues, visit **www.sakuraherbicide.com.au**

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WHAT CAN CAUSE TROUBLE

1. Cultivation before sowing

Cultivation can bury the weed seeds, which helps them survive longer and makes them harder to control with Sakura, so Sakura should always be used as part of a minimum tillage program. (Other farm activities, including grazing or the movement of stock and machinery, and natural events, such as dry summers resulting in deep soil cracking, can also contribute to weed seed burial.).

2. Too much trash

Stubble won't normally have a big effect on the weed control Sakura provides. But if the trash cover is over 50%, or the header has left chaff heaped in thick rows, it may affect the weed control achieved by Sakura. In this situation, rainfall after sowing is especially important to wash Sakura through the stubble or trash and incorporate it into the weed seed zone.

3. Cloddy soil

In soils prone to crusting and clodding, the seeding process may leave the layer of Sakura that started on the soil surface stuck to clods that have just been pushed aside – so it is not properly incorporated and weed control may be patchy, especially in the sowing furrow.

4. Heavy rain on very sandy soil

In the sandy soils you find in WA and some other parts of Australia, heavy rain can either wash Sakura right out of the weed-seed zone or spread it so thinly that it is less effective.

5. No significant rain after sowing

If there is enough moisture in the soil to germinate weeds before Sakura is applied, but there is not enough rain to move Sakura into the weed-seed zone within two weeks after application, control is very likely to be reduced. In these conditions, tank-mixing Sakura with trifluralin may improve control of the first germination.

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