

Pre-Emergent Herbicides in Dry Spring Conditions

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Herbicides with soil residual activity like Edge, Authority or Heat formulations are great options to reduce weeds as field peas are emerging and establishing. They help keep your field cleaner from weeds, thus allowing more water and nutrients to get to the crop in its early stages.

However, with current dry soil conditions, soil residual herbicides needing soil incorporation may not be a good option this year. That is because soil incorporation will result in loss of valuable soil moisture for crop germination and can reduce the herbicide activity because of low soil moisture.

A different option, at this time, is using a pre-emergent soil applied herbicide that has residual activity – without requiring soil disturbance. These products need to be applied 1 to 3 days after seeding is completed on the field. You do not incorporate afterwards, but they need 1/4 to 1/2 inch of rainfall to be activated, to create the layer of herbicide treated soil that suppresses or kills the germinating/emerging weeds as they take up the herbicide.

What if it doesn't rain until after the crop emerges? Once rain occurs, the activity of the herbicide will start to control and suppress weeds, but a higher number of escapes will occur due to delayed activity. There could also be potentially some crop damage if a very large rain occurs (3 to 5 inches at once), the crop has just emerged and the rain washes the herbicide directly into the pea roots. This does not happen often, but it is a risk to be aware of.

Common pre-emergent herbicides used in peas – check the label to see what weeds are controlled/suppressed:

- Authority (Authority 480, Authority Charge, Authority Supreme),
- Fierce/Torpedo,
- Heat (Heat WG, Heat LQ, Heat Complete) – also provides some burn-off activity on emerged weeds
- Valtera/Chateau/Payload.

Please consult your Guide to Field Crop Protection or talk to your retail agronomist about options they have in stock or can order for you.

What about glyphosate? Glyphosate will only control emerged weeds at the time of application. Anything that emerges after the application will not be affected. An option is to tank-mix glyphosate and the pre-emergent residual herbicides to control.

Have questions going into spring? Contact your Roquette Agronomists:

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