Alfalfa Weed Control Options
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Establishing New Stands

- Balan or Eptam

- Must incorporate both herbicide—neither herbicide will last than long, but still offer some effective control
  - Balan – Good on annual grass, but only fair on many broadleaf weeds
  - Eptam – (Remember Eradicane?)
    - Can be applied by chemigation
    - Weak on broadleaf weeds

Seedling Alfalfa, 2-4 trifoliate leaves

- Buctril
  - Broadleaf weed control
  - Weeds must be small, coverage is important
  - No residual, but more like a burndown chemical
  - Consider mixing with 2,4-DB or Pursuit

- 2,4-DB
  - Broadleaf weed control, inconsistent results
  - Drift??

- Poast Plus or Select
  - Grass control only. No soil activity
  - Poast Plus may be better for annual grasses, but for johnsongrass and hard-to-control grasses favor Select

- Pursuit
  - Has both post and soil activity
  - Works best on small weeds
  - Reasonably good control of broadleaf weeds, but grass control can be inconsistent
  - Add surfactant and liquid N
Raptor

✓ Same type chemistry as Pursuit, but better post activity on most weeds and grasses
✓ Shorter residual than Pursuit, but should give season long control
✓ Crop safety is good, but not as good as Pursuit

Both Pursuit and Raptor have greatly helped getting alfalfa established, especially in weedy fields.

Established Alfalfa, One Year Old

All of the above products labeled for seedling alfalfa

Dormant Alfalfa—As a precaution, keep in mind that many alfalfas, particularly Fall Dormancy (FD)7 and higher essentially do not go completely dormant in the winter, and we can assume that some injury would occur. For alfalfas that are generally considered semi-dormant, (FD 4 to 6), producers need to evaluate the crop. FD 4 is pretty much dormant in West Texas, but FD 5 and 6 could remain green, and an FD 6 might even grow a little on a warm day. FD 7 certainly would.

Velpar

Apply in late winter.
Pre and post activity.
Strong on mustards and will pick up later emerging weeds.
Good activity on winter grasses.

Karmex

Apply in late winter.
Pre and post activity.
Often used in combination with Velpar, but may burn alfalfa slightly more than Velpar

Sencor

✓ Apply to dormant alfalfa
✓ Mostly broadleaf weeds, but little control on grasses
✓ Cannot use on soils with a pH greater than 7.5

Non-Dormant Alfalfa

Zorial

✓ Soil activity only
✓ Can be applied to 5 month old alfalfa
✓ Apply between cuttings

Treflan formulations

✓ Some formulations can be applied through chemigation.
✓ Key is getting it incorporated before weeds emerge.
✓ Dodder control

# Herbicide/Weed Control Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Pigweed</th>
<th>Kochia</th>
<th>Mustards</th>
<th>Cheat</th>
<th>Barnyard Grass</th>
<th>Sandbur</th>
<th>Johnsongrass</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balan</td>
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G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor