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MEDIA RELEASE

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GLYPHOSATE RESISTANCE IN WEEDS BECOMING A PROBLEM FOR LANDHOLDERS

By **Gabrielle Hall**

Landholders using only glyphosate to control weeds along fencelines are likely to encounter resistance to the chemical according to University of Adelaide Associate Professor Dr Chris Preston.

Dr Preston was one of the key trial speakers at the Hart Field Day on September 21 and said there were at least 15 farming sites in South Australia where ryegrass is showing resistance to glyphosate.

“Fencelines and crop margins can be problem areas on grain farms because weeds, if not controlled, grow freely in these areas,” he said.

“This can lead to weed infestations moving into cropped paddocks and the weeds can harbour pests such as snails and be a fire risk. As a result, many grain farmers prefer to keep the weeds under control.

“Many growers use glyphosate alone for weed control on fencelines because it’s easy to use and low cost. However, problems can arise if glyphosate is the only tactic used to control the weeds in these areas.”

Dr Preston said there were some alternatives to the glyphosate-only approach that would assist in reducing the risk of glyphosate resistant weeds, with a combination of techniques likely to be most successful.

One strategy is to remove fences that are no longer useful and cropping the area instead to provide competition to the weeds and a change in weed management practices for that area.

Another option is to mow or slash the weeds and only use herbicide for the area immediately under the fence, also cropping as close to the fenceline as possible and cutting a fire break late in the season to reduce the area treated solely with glyphosate.

Dr Preston acknowledges some farmers prefer to continue with a herbicide option to control weeds along fencelines.

“In our trials in a cropping situation, a number of products and mixtures were applied to a site with a very large population of glyphosate-resistant annual ryegrass along a fenceline,” he said.

“We found that glyphosate, even at high rates, provided very little control of the resistant ryegrass.

“Mixtures of Spray.Seed and diuron were effective at controlling glyphosate-resistant annual ryegrass, as was Alliance and two applications of Spray.Seed 14 days apart.

“Our trials worked on the rates of Spray.Seed 3.2 litres per hectare, Alliance 4L/ha, Amitrole T 6L/ha, diuron 6L/ha and simazine 5kg/ha.

“However, particular care needs to be taken with residual herbicides to ensure they’re not used where damage to plants such as trees might occur.”

Dr Preston said glyphosate resistance was also becoming a problem in vineyards, irrigation channels and driveways.

For more information, contact the Grains Research and Development Trust or the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group at <http://glyphosateresistance.org.au/>



University of Adelaide Associate Professor Dr Chris Preston shows the effect of Alliance on rye grass in a trial at the Hart Field Day site.

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