

Sonalan Now Labeled in Lentil (2005)

Sonalan 10G was recently approved for use as a fall application in direct-seeded lentil. Sonalan should be applied late in the fall (late October- early November) prior to soil freeze-up. Do not apply Sonalan to frozen soil. Early fall applications are discouraged because conditions are usually warm and dry and herbicide losses can occur. Late fall applications are preferable to spring so that there is adequate opportunity for incorporation and activation. The herbicide needs to be incorporated by rainfall or mechanical means in order to be most effective. The label recommends incorporation using minimum soil disturbance equipment such as a heavy harrow. Herbicide that remains on the soil surface without incorporation will not provide adequate weed control.

The current Sonalan label does not allow a spring application. Spring applications run the risk of slightly greater crop injury as well as herbicide losses due to photodegradation and volatilization in a warm, dry spring. Dry conditions following a spring application would also hinder herbicide activation and allow weeds to escape. Sonalan will not control emerged weeds.

It is preferable that Sonalan be used in fields that have been in no-till for at least three years. Fields with a long no-till history will have weed seed that is located primarily on the soil surface. In contrast, conventional-tilled fields will have weed seed that is distributed throughout the tillage zone, thus many seeds will be present below the herbicide layer. For Sonalan to be most effective, the herbicide needs to be distributed where the weed seeds are, ideally in the top one-inch of soil. Weed seedling growth will be inhibited if weed seeds germinate within the Sonalan layer. Weeds that germinate below the Sonalan layer will likely survive.

It is essential that residue from the previous crop be distributed evenly so that the herbicide can also be distributed evenly across the field. The maximum rate allowed by the Sonalan label is 7.5 lb. We believe there will be more than adequate crop safety with fall-applied Sonalan. As with other crops and herbicides, cold/wet soils may slow initial lentil growth, but lentils will generally recover quickly and show little, if any, effect later in the season. Only Sonalan 10G granules are recommended in direct-seeded fields. Use of liquid Sonalan is discouraged since the liquid can be intercepted and retained by the straw. Lentil should be planted in fields that have relatively low weed densities. Sonalan will not control all weeds, but should provide control or suppression of kochia, wild buckwheat, pigweed, Russian thistle, lambsquarters, foxtail, and barnyard grass. A postemergence grass herbicide will likely be needed to control other grasses such as wild oat and volunteer cereals. Sonalan will not control mustards such as wild mustard, shepherd's purse, flixweed, field pennycress, or volunteer canola.