

Performance of Preharvest Desiccants in Flax, Carrington, 2008

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The field experiment was conducted at the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center to test selected herbicides for effectiveness of preharvest desiccation in flax. The experimental design was a randomized complete block with three replicates. 'York' flax was seeded on May 14.

Best management practices were used for flax production. The trial was over-sprayed with Bronate Advanced at 16 fl oz plus Assure II at 8 fl oz plus MSO at 16 fl oz/A on June 30. Herbicide treatments were applied with a CO₂-hand-boom plot sprayer delivering 18 gal/A at 35 psi through 8001 flat-fan nozzles on August 27 with 58° F, 66% RH, 70% clear sky, and 7 mph wind to flax with 80-90% brown bolls. Visual evaluation of flax stems and all plants (flax and weeds) in plots was done on September 1 and 9 using the scale of 0-9 (0=100% green and 9=100% brown). The trial was harvested on September 15 with a plot combine.

Gramoxone Inteon and Valor plus glyphosate provided the highest amount of tissue desiccation when evaluated five days after application (DAT) (Table). Gramoxone Inteon, glyphosate, and Valor plus glyphosate provided the highest amount of plant tissue desiccation in plots when evaluated 14 DAT. Seed yield and quality not shown due to excessive boll loss primarily from grasshopper feeding.

Table. Performance of preharvest desiccants in flax.					
Herbicide		0-9 ¹			
		1-Sep		9-Sep	
Treatment ²	fl oz product/A	Flax stems	Plot	Flax stems	Plot
untreated check	x	2	2	3	3
Valor+Superb HC+AMS	2 oz+32+0.5%	3	4	4	5
Gramoxone Inteon+NIS	32+0.25%	4	7	5	7
Valor+glyt+Superb HC+AMS	2 oz+22+32+0.5%	4	5	7	8
glyt+Superb HC+AMS	22+32+0.5%	2	3	7	7
C.V. (%)		21.5	12.9	22.9	14.1
LSD (0.05)		1	1	2	2
¹ 0=green and 9=brown; plot=flax plus weeds.					
² Superb HC=high surfactant oil concentrate (Winfield); AMS=Blue Diamond Activator; NIS=Preference (Winfield); glyt=RU WeatherMax (4.5 lb ae).					



Flax desiccant treatments, August 2008.