

# Wild Garlic Control in Indiana No-till

Wild Garlic (*Allium vineale*) has shown up in many Indiana no-till corn and soybean fields this spring especially, in southern Indiana. Wild Garlic is most troublesome in wheat, where aerial bulblets contaminate harvested grain and impart the garlic flavor into processed products such as wheat flour. Infestations in corn and soybean fields have less adverse effects on the crop, but can spread quickly across fields and are difficult to control with typical burndown treatments of glyphosate and 2,4-D.



Management of wild garlic must occur early in the spring as this perennial will quickly become reproductive in mid to late spring. Wild garlic produces aerial bulblets and begins to senesce in late spring to early summer. As with all weeds, wild garlic management needs to occur prior to seed or in this case bulblet production to reduce future infestations. Ideally herbicide applications should take place in early April when the wild garlic is less than 12 inches tall and actively growing. To assure active growth is occurring make applications when daytime temperatures are consistently maintained at 60 degrees or higher.

An additional challenge for herbicide application is the growth habit and leaf structure of wild garlic. The smooth, linear, and erect leaves of wild garlic can create difficulties in getting good spray coverage. Spray carrier volume has the greatest effect on herbicide coverage, and higher volumes should be considered when making applications to difficult to cover weeds such as wild garlic. A minimum of 15 gal/acre would be recommended for effective coverage of wild garlic.

Typical spring no-till burndowns of glyphosate plus 2,4-D will only have marginal and variable control of wild garlic. The addition of thifensulfuron, thifensulfuron plus tribenuron, or chlorimuron containing products to the glyphosate plus 2,4-D tank mix will provide additional and less variable control of wild garlic. Applications with higher rates of thifensulfuron will be most effective in controlling heavy infestations of wild garlic. Again as mentioned above these herbicide applications will be most beneficial when applied at the correct timing and with higher carrier volumes.

Plant back restrictions for corn and soybean should be noted for the herbicide products applied. Products containing thifensulfuron and tribenuron can have plant back restrictions up to 45 days depending on product rates. Chlorimuron products are not labeled for use prior to corn planting. Always refer to the label for plant back restrictions.

The list of products containing thifensulfuron, thifensulfuron plus tribenuron, and chlorimuron is extensive and beyond the scope of this article. A list of products can be found in the 2015 Weed Control Guide for Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois ([https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item\\_Number=WS-16-W#.VR2hq2a16wz](https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?Item_Number=WS-16-W#.VR2hq2a16wz)). Additional information for control of wild garlic in winter wheat can be found in the "Control of Problem Weeds" section (pg 170) of the 2015 Weed Control Guide.

Find the latest weed Management  
information and tools from Purdue:  
<https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/weedscience>

**PURDUE**  
EXTENSION  
**WEED**  
SCIENCE

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran.

Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.