

Alfalfa herbicide options, key considerations, and SOA classifications

Timing	Alfalfa growth stage	Herbicides	Weed growth	Weeds controlled	Considerations
Pre-plant burndown	Pre-plant / at-plant burndown, or application on established stands during the dormant period	Gramoxone Inteon SOA Code: 22	Actively growing weeds and grasses	Non-selective broad spectrum	70 day harvest restriction, only one application per season, with varying regional restrictions
Pre-plant, at-planting, pre-emergence	Pre-plant, at-planting, pre-emergence burndown of emerged weeds	Roundup PowerMAX3 Roundup WeatherMAX SOA Code: 9	Actively growing weeds and grasses	Non-selective broad spectrum	Application must be made prior to crop emergence for conventional alfalfa
Pre-plant incorporated	Pre-emergence	Balan* DF Eptam SOA Code: 8	Germinating broadleaf seeds and emerging seedlings	Broad spectrum broad-leaf control	Soil incorporation or chemigation needed to distribute herbicide in top few inches of soil. Check your state registration, may be lacking for several states.
Early post-emergence	Seedling alfalfa at least 2nd trifoliolate leaf stage in Western states, 4th trifoliolate in Eastern states	Buctril Maestro SOA Code: 6	Broad spectrum broad-leaf control of small weeds up to 2 inches tall	Broad spectrum broad-leaf control	Suitable for use in small grain nurse crop. Temperatures over 70°F within three days of application can cause crop burn, 30 to 60 day harvest restriction.
Post-emergence	Seedling or emerged alfalfa	Butyrac SOA Code: 4	Small broadleaf control, with suppression of some larger broadleaves	Broad spectrum broad-leaf control	30 day harvest restriction for established alfalfa, 60 day harvest restriction for seedling alfalfa, can be tank-mixed with Buctril or Poast for additional broadleaf and grass control
Post-emergence	Seedling and established alfalfa	Poast SOA Code: 1	Actively growing grasses, tallest height controlled varies by grass species, generally 8 inches	Annual and perennial grasses	Harvest restriction seven days before grazing, 14 days before cutting for hay/haylage, best control before mowing grasses
Post-emergence	Seedling and established alfalfa	Select Max SOA Code: 1	Actively growing grasses, generally 2 to 6 inches in height	Annual and perennial grasses	Harvest restriction 15 days, best control before mowing grasses

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Early post-emergence and established stands	Seedling alfalfa at least 2nd trifoliate leaf stage, or less than 3 inches of regrowth in established stands	Pursuit Raptor ImiFlex SOA Code: 2	Emerged weeds up to 3 inches for most species	Broad spectrum broad-leaf and grass control	30 day harvest restriction
Early post-emergence and established stands	Seedling and established alfalfa	Prowl H ₂ O SOA Code: 3	Controls weed seedlings during sprouting and prior to emergence	Most annual grasses and some broadleaf weeds	In seedling alfalfa apply after 2nd trifoliate but before 6-inch plant height. Established alfalfa up to 10 inch plant height. Additional restrictions on label.
Early post-emergence and established stands	Seedling and established alfalfa	Warrant SOA Code: 15	Controls weed seedlings during sprouting and prior to emergence	Annual grasses and broadleaf weeds, will not control emerged seedling plants	Wait a minimum of 20 days after application before cutting for forage or hay, or before open grazing of forage by livestock
Post-emergence	Seedling and established alfalfa, 3rd trifoliate stage or later, only for alfalfa varieties with Roundup Ready technology	Roundup PowerMAX3 Roundup WeatherMAX SOA Code: 9	Actively growing weeds and grasses	Broad spectrum of annual and perennial broadleaves and grasses	Do not apply within five days of harvest, aim for first application at 3rd to 4th trifoliate leaf stage for best early weed control and null plant take-out, no rotational restrictions
Post-emergence	Established stands, not more than 6-inch crop height	Chateau SOA Code: 14	Emerged seedlings not exceeding 1 to 3 inches in height	Broadleaf and some annual grass control including cheatgrass	25 day harvest restriction, up to 12 month rotation interval
Post-emergence	Established stands, application post-cutting	Solicam SOA Code: 1	Pre-emergent weed control in established alfalfa	Broad spectrum of annual and perennial broadleaves and grasses	Apply after cutting in stands established more than three months; 28 day harvest restriction
Fall and early winter post-emergence	Apply in fall/winter months to established alfalfa, or late summer seedlings after 1st trifoliate stage	Kerb SOA Code: 3	Controls germinating seeds and emerging seedlings	Annual and perennial grasses, including cheatgrass	25 to 45 day harvest restriction, apply during cool temperatures above freezing, up to 55°F to 60°F
Dormant application	Established stands, application during winter dormant period	Velpar SOA Code: 5	Pre-emergence and early growth up to 2 inches in height or diameter	Non-selective broad spectrum	12 month minimum rotation interval to corn and root crops, 24 months for most other crops
Dormant application	Established stands, application during winter dormant period	Velpar Alfamax Gold SOA Code: 5 & 7	Pre-emergence and early growth up to 2 inches in height or diameter	Non-selective broad spectrum	12 month rotation interval to corn and root crops, 24 months for most other crops
Dormant application	Established stands, application during dormant period or just after cutting	Eptam SOA Code: 8	Germinating broadleaf seeds and emerging seedlings	Broad spectrum broad-leaf control	14 to 21 day harvest restrictions, chemigation needed to carry herbicide into top few inches of soil
Dormant application	Established stands, application during dormant period or just after cutting	Treflan SOA Code: 3	Germinating broadleaf seeds and emerging seedlings	Broad spectrum broad-leaf control	14 to 21 day harvest restrictions, chemigation needed to carry herbicide into top few inches of soil
Dormant application	Established stands, application during winter dormant period	Diuron SOA Code: 7	Pre-emergence and early growth up to 2 inches in height or diameter	Annual grass and broadleaf weeds	Two year rotation interval to other crops unless earlier interval indicated on the herbicide label for some states
Dormant application	Established stands, during winter dormant period	Sinbar SOA Code: 5	Pre-emergence and early growth up to 2 inches in height or diameter	Seedling annual weeds	24 month rotation interval
Dormant application	Established stands, during winter dormant period	Sharpen SOA Code: 14	Pre-emergence and early growth up to 3 to 6 inches in height or diameter	Control or suppress many broadleaf weeds including glyphosate resistant Palmer Amaranth	Read label for harvest and rotation restriction intervals, which vary according to application rate

*This table contains generalized information gleaned from herbicide labels, and is not comprehensive with respect to herbicide use or efficacy.

Always read and follow pesticide label directions, including your individual state registrations, and supplemental labels.

Follow crop rotation restrictions and harvest or grazing restriction intervals, restrictions on feed or grain marketing, and all other stewardship practices where applicable per label requirements.