

Factors Influencing Herbicide Persistence, Carryover & Injury Establishing Alfalfa

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Herbicides are a common and efficient method of weed management in agronomic crops. Despite their wide use across the landscape, injury due to persistence of herbicides from subsequent crops has increased over the past decade. While this has not been studied in depth, it is believed that a combination of factors are responsible, including changes in commonly used active ingredients, weather, lack of experience with residual herbicides, and increases in use of residual herbicides mid-season. This presentation will discuss how herbicides breakdown in the environment and approaches to avoid injury. As recent observations in alfalfa have documented widespread injury, this crop will be the focus of the presentation, but concepts will be applicable across crops.



Mark Renz is a professor and extension weed specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Renz researches and extends information about the biology and management of weeds in perennial cropping systems and natural areas. Mark is originally from California, where he completed his bachelors and Ph.D. at the University of California-Davis. Mark has over 20 years of experience conducting weed management research throughout the United States, and has enjoyed the last ten years working in Wisconsin. Current efforts have focused on weed management in alfalfa, alfalfa interseeded into corn, and in pasture-based systems.