

# WEED CONTROL

In Southern Manitoba, the conditions and farming inputs necessary to produce high yields and good quality also favour vigorous weed growth. Corn, owing to its erect habit of growth, competes poorly with weeds until mid-July when the leaf canopy has closed over the inter-row area. For this reason, the control program for May and June must be well planned. Weeds in corn may be controlled by two basic methods – cultural or chemical – or by combination of both.

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## Cultural Control

Cultural weed control mainly involves removing weeds from the inter-row area with various types of tillage equipment. This isn't completely efficient because it leaves weeds within the rows, and the number of entries into the field must be limited to reduce root pruning to the corn. Also, the cost of the fuel will be high, and you want to avoid numerous tillage operations on light soils.

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## Chemical Control

In-crop herbicide use has changed a lot in recent years, with the domination of Roundup Ready crops. Glyphosate is the most commonly used chemical input in corn, but there are still important decisions to be made before spraying:

### PRE-SEED/PRE-EMERGENCE?

- \* Do weed populations warrant an application here?

### WHEN TO SPRAY IN-CROP? HOW EARLY? HOW LATE?

- \* Make the best use of the herbicide application, potentially avoiding a second application.

### AT WHAT RATE IS GLYPHOSATE NEEDED FOR THE WEED PRESSURE PRESENT?

- \* Check glyphosate label to determine rates and concentration of the chosen glyphosate product.

### IS A TANK-MIX NEEDED TO CONTROL VOLUNTEER RR OR TOUGHER WEEDS?

- \* Banvel II, 2,4-D
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## Cultural plus Chemical Control

This method involves the use of inter-row tillage combined with herbicide application only to the rows. The practice results in a clean field until wet weather makes in-field machinery use impossible. The only advantage of this system is that less herbicide is used, however, with the rising cost of fuel and reasonable costs of glyphosate, this method is rarely followed anymore.



## NOTES