



Washington State Department of Agriculture
Pesticide Management Division
Registration Services Program
PO Box 42560 • Olympia WA 98504-2560
Telephone (360) 902-2030 • FAX (360) 902-2093

Herbicide Use on Timothy

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) would like to remind timothy hay growers of the need to carefully review any herbicide label to ensure its use is allowed under the label directions.

Timothy growers have asked if certain herbicides can be used under the directions for pasture and/or rangeland when the crop or site “timothy” is not specifically listed on the label.

The answer depends on whether the directions for use specifically allow cutting for hay. A provision for grazing is not sufficient by itself.

Example: Under the directions for Established Grass Pastures, Rangeland and CRP areas, if the label states “Do not cut forage for hay within 30 days of application.” This product can be applied to timothy provided the timothy is not cut for hay for at least 30 days and no other wording on the label prohibits the use of the product on timothy.

The reason for the distinction between grazing and cutting for hay has to do with the required tolerances. In order to establish a tolerance on grass grown for hay, studies must be performed to show whether or not the drying process will concentrate the herbicide residue. If the label allows cutting for hay, one may safely assume such studies have been performed. If the label does not allow for a cutting, one cannot make such an assumption.

It is a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Washington Pesticide Application Act to apply a pesticide to a crop in a manner inconsistent with the label directions.

If you have any questions regarding the use of herbicides on timothy hay you may contact:

- WSDA Registration Services Program at (360) 902-2030
- WSDA Compliance Program (toll-free) at (877) 301-4555