

# Onion growers have new options for weed control

By Bernard Zandstra  
Michigan State University

Weed control continues to be a major concern for onion growers. Growers make 10 or more trips over fields to apply herbicides and control weeds. We constantly are seeking new chemicals for onion weed control and more effective methods to use currently registered herbicides.

The herbicide Chateau (flumioxazin) was registered for onions recently. It is labeled for application after the two-leaf stage for pre-emergence suppression of broadleaves and large crabgrass. It is safe on onions when used correctly. However, it can cause crop injury and yield reduction if used incorrectly. The solvents in other herbicide formulations may in-

crease activity of Chateau on onions.

In our research, Chateau was safe on onions when tank mixed with the new formulations of Prowl (Prowl H2O 3.8 CS) and Goal (GoalTender 4 SC). Tank mixes with the original formulation of Prowl increased crop injury. Tank mixing with any of the post-emergence grass herbicides or any adjuvants may increase onion injury. Tank mixes of Chateau with Dual Magnum or Outlook also may cause injury and should be avoided. Growers should apply Chateau at 1 oz/acre until they have had some experience with it. Chateau has both pre-emergence and post-emergence activity and will kill most small broadleaves and provide residual control for about four weeks.

Any formulation of pendimethalin

(Prowl 3.3 EC, generic products, or Prowl H2O) is safe pre-emergence. Prowl H2O generally is safer on emerged onions. There are no significant differences in crop injury between Goal formulations used alone. However, in tank mixes of two or more chemicals, use of GoalTender will help avoid phytotoxicity.

Nortron should be labeled for onions in 2007. Apply 1 pt post-emergence for control of common chickweed, nightshades and pigweeds. Select has been reformulated as Select Max 0.97 EC. Check

the label for the new use rate. Do not tank mix Select Max with Chateau. Tank mixes of Select Max with GoalTender should not cause crop injury.

The Dual Magnum Michigan 24c label has been expanded to include several vegetable crops, including onion. Growers should access the Syngenta Web site, [www.farmassist.com](http://www.farmassist.com), to agree to the indemnification statement and to obtain a copy of the label. Membership in the Michigan Vegetable Council is no longer a requirement for use of Dual Magnum on onions.

## BASF offers Alverde insecticide

A new insecticide developed by BASF promises growers a valuable new tool for control of the most economically significant insects in potatoes, vegetables and a range of other crops. Pending registration, the new insecticide will be marketed in the United States under the name Alverde.

Alverde brings a new class of chemistry to the U.S. insecticide market and is well suited for use in Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Resistance management programs, according to the company. BASF plans to launch the product in 2007. For more information, visit [www.agproducts.basf.com](http://www.agproducts.basf.com).

## World Famous Doyle's Thornless Blackberry

Look what you can get from one plant

Totally thornless and does not sucker

