CANADA THISTLE CONTROL WITH AMINOPYRALID. Robert G. Wilson*, University of Nebraska, Scottsbluff, NE 69361.

Field studies were initiated at two locations in western Nebraska to examine the efficacy of aminopyralid for Canada thistle control. Three experiments were initiated in the spring of 2003 and two were started in the spring of 2004. Comparisons were made between different rates of aminopyralid, picloram, clopyralid, dicamba, and chlorsulfuron applied at the bud or fall rosette growth stage. An additional experiment was also begun in the early summer of 2004 to explore the influence of mowing before and after aminopyralid treatment on Canada thistle control. Canada thistle shoot counts and visual observations of thistle control were taken approximately 6, 12, and 18 mo after treatment. Application of aminopyralid at 120 g ae/ha in late spring at the bud growth stage provided 91% control of Canada thistle 12 mo following treatment and control was equivalent to picloram at 420 g/ha. Fall rosette applications of aminopyralid at 87, 105, 120 g/ha provided on average 11% greater Canada thistle control than treatments made in the spring. Aminopyralid at 120 g/ha, applied in the fall, reduced Canada thistle shoot density 93%, 12 mo following treatment while picloram at 420 g/ha, clopyralid at 420 g/ha, dicamba at 1120 g/ha, and chlorsulfuron at 78 g/ha reduced Canada thistle shoot density 89, 81, 48, and 70%, respectively. Aminopyralid did not injure range grasses, sedges, and brush species at the study sites. Application of aminopyralid on June 9, 2004, 14 d before mowing did not influence the herbicides ability to control Canada thistle. However, mowing 7 d before or 7 to 14 d after aminopyralid treatment did reduce Canada thistle control 16%. Waiting 21 d after mowing before treatment with aminopyralid was long enough to avoid a reduction in Canada thistle control. Results from these trials showed that aminopyralid was very effective in controlling Canada thistle.

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