

BOXER GOLD[®] in Heavy Stubble



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Like all pre-emergent herbicides BOXER GOLD[®] works best when applied directly to the soil surface. Most growers, however, prefer to maintain stubble cover for a range of reasons including moisture conservation. It is therefore important to understand the impact of stubble on the performance of BOXER GOLD.

High stubble loads impact on pre-emergent herbicide performance for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, pre-emergent herbicides such as BOXER GOLD, trifluralin and Sakura* are often bound to stubble. While the binding strength of these products varies slightly, limited wash off can still occur. The herbicide contained in the wash off would then be available for weed control, although generally redistribution through the soil profile is poor and a concentration will occur at the base of the stubble. While there are some benefits to using a product with higher solubility than trifluralin, such as BOXER GOLD, it is recommended that growers apply the same stubble management rules to that of trifluralin.

Secondly, stubble present at application time can cause problems due to droplet penetration and shading, resulting in poor and uneven distribution of the active ingredient on the soil. Generally standing stubble has a reduced impact when compared to flattened stubble.

For these reasons, where there is greater than 40-50% soil cover, pre-emergent weed control with products like BOXER GOLD, trifluralin and Sakura is likely to be significantly reduced. In these situations it is recommended that some form of stubble management is taken to ensure effective weed control is achieved.

To maximise efficacy from BOXER GOLD apply

- where there is less than 40-50% soil cover
- where preferably there is standing stubble
- with water rates greater than 75L/ha
- using a coarse or greater spray quality

Stubble load >40-50% soil cover is likely to result in sub-optimum weed control.



BOXER GOLD and burnt stubble applications

Where growers choose to burn their stubble there have historically been concerns over the performance of pre-emergent herbicides when applied to the subsequent ash blanket.

Trials indicate that only limited amounts of active ingredient are lost due to carbon tie-up, however the ash left following a stubble burn can act as a direct barrier like heavy pre-seeding weed burden or high stubble load. As a consequence poor soil coverage is achieved with the herbicide and can result in reduced product performance.

In addition ash from freshly burnt stubble is highly mobile and easily moved by wind creating the risk of herbicide removal from the field or accumulation in ridges and furrows.

It is therefore recommended that before applying BOXER GOLD to burnt stubble you wait until after rainfall or at least 7-10 days after burning to allow for the breakup of the ash layer. This will ensure good soil coverage and assist in maximising the efficacy of BOXER GOLD.



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