



## Desiccation and Pre-Harvest Weed Control in Canola

### Pre-Harvest Herbicide Application

Herbicides, when used properly and at the correct application timing prior to harvest, can provide several benefits:

- Manage weeds to reduce dockage and facilitate easier harvesting
- Control perennial weeds to reduce weed problems the following year
- Manage your time at harvest
- Allow for straight-cut harvest of canola
- Maximize yield and quality of canola seed



### Consider Objectives

It is important to understand if your goal is desiccation of your crop, controlling weeds (annual or perennial) prior to harvest, or a combination of both. If weed control is the primary objective, a product such as glyphosate will be required. If the primary objective is desiccation, a product such as diquat or saflufenacil should be used.

When a herbicide product is used pre-harvest it is very important to remember the pre-harvest (which includes swathing) interval. Maximum residue limits (MRL's) are set for herbicides and these limits are very important for crops such as canola that may be exported to foreign countries.

2015 registered options to apply pre-harvest to canola in Western Canada.

Product	Tank-mix registered	Days to Harvest / cutting after application
<b>Desiccant</b>		
Diquat herbicides		7-10 days
Heat® WG/LQ herbicide	X	3-10 days
<b>Pre-Harvest Weed Control</b>		
Glyphosate herbicides	X	3 to swath; 7 to harvest

**Always follow herbicide label directions and application rates.**

### Canola Desiccation

Desiccation is used to accelerate dry down of the crop. Desiccation does not shorten the time to maturity, but instead shuts the plant down and dries the crop to facilitate harvest.



Timing to desiccate canola varies by the product. For diquat, apply when 80-90% of the seed has changed color. For Heat® herbicide, apply when 60-70% of the seed has changed color. To maximize the performance of your desiccant, consider higher water volumes and nozzles that will provide good coverage.

If harvest is delayed following desiccation of canola, both pod drop and pod shatter may increase. If the field has variable staging, it will be important to time the application to the canola stage that will contribute most to the overall yield.

### Canola Pre-Harvest Weed Control

Glyphosate is used in many crops as a pre-harvest application to control both annual weeds that were missed earlier in the season as well as perennial weeds. For successful pre-harvest weed control, it is important to ensure that the weeds are actively growing and that both the crop and the weeds are at the right stage. Conditions in the fall, such as frost, may slow weed growth for a period of time. Pre-harvest herbicide applications should be delayed until weeds to begin to regrow in order to be effective.

Proper timing for pre-harvest weed control would typically be when the seed has reached 30% moisture or less, which is about 30-40% seed color change<sup>1</sup>. At least three days between application and swathing (or combining) will provide time for the herbicide to be taken up and translocated throughout the weeds.

If tank-mixing a weed control herbicide with a desiccant, be aware of the stage of the crop to ensure that levels of green seed are managed. Glyphosate will not act to dry down glyphosate-resistant canola. Do not apply glyphosate to crops if grown for seed production.

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding seed color change referenced from Canola Council of Canada

The foregoing is provided for informational use only. Please contact your Pioneer sales professional for information and suggestions specific to your operation. Product performance is variable and depends on many factors such as moisture and heat stress, soil type, management practices and environmental stress as well as disease and pest pressures. Individual results may vary.