

## **CLETHODIM FOR ANNUAL BLUEGRASS (Poa annua) CONTROL IN SEEDLING ALFALFA (Medicago sativa)**

Len Welch \*  
Mike Ansolabehere \*  
Ron Vargas \*\*

Annual bluegrass (ABG) can be a problem in seedling alfalfa when preemergence herbicides are not properly applied. There are no postemergence grass herbicides currently registered that will control ABG in seedling alfalfa without causing some crop damage. Sethoxydim (Poast), the only post emergence grass herbicide registered for use in alfalfa, does not control ABG. Paraquat, which is labeled for use in seedling alfalfa, after the third trifoliate leaf has formed, will control ABG but will cause some crop injury. Clethodim (Select) has provided control of ABG and has proven to be safe on seedling alfalfa when applied as early as the cotyledon stage of alfalfa growth.

Clethodim was tested as a Fall application for control of ABG in seedling alfalfa in Madera County, CA. The alfalfa was at the third trifoliate leaf stage and the ABG was at the 3 to 4 leaf stage at application. Applications were with a back-pack sprayer which delivered 18 gpa at 40 psi. Agridex crop oil concentrate at 1 qt/A was added to clethodim and sethoxydim treatments and X-77 at 8 fl. oz./100 gal was added to the paraquat treatment.