



June 9, 2004

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The following information is provided to you from the Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center regarding the use of benefin on alfalfa in the six-state Pacific Northwest region comprised of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Utah, and Washington.

Benefin is not widely used in either alfalfa or alfalfa seed crops grown in our region. In alfalfa crops, growers pre-plant incorporate EPTC (Eptam), trifluralin (Treflan), and/or benefin (Balan). While benefin is effective and is less likely to damage seedling alfalfa, growers prefer to use a four-to-one tank mix of EPTC and trifluralin because of the expense of benefin. Benefin costs \$35 per acre while the EPTC/trifluralin tank mix costs approximately \$20 per acre. Growers feel that they can better tolerate the damage to the seedling alfalfa than the higher cost of using benefin. Growers would, however, like to retain the use of benefin. Should the use of trifluralin be threatened, benefin would become critical in alfalfa production because EPTC used alone does not provide adequate weed control in newly established alfalfa.

I hope that you find this information useful. Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane M. Thomas".

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