Herbicide persistence into the next growing season restricts rotational crops. The following information explains herbicide degradation for chemistries known to carryover.

**General Rules For Herbicide Breakdown**

1. Many herbicides are broken down in soil by microbial decomposition. In addition, SUs and triazines are broken down by chemical reactions like acid hydrolysis.
2. Herbicide molecules must be free from binding to soil particles or organic matter for soil microorganisms to degrade.
3. Most herbicide molecules are more tightly adsorbed to soil particles in dry soils than moist soils.

**Effect of pH on Herbicide Activity and Persistence**

Negative charges (-) on soil particles and organic matter adsorb positive-charged (+) compounds or substances. Soil pH influences adsorption and availability of the following herbicides by determining the electrical charge of the herbicide molecules: Imidazolinones, SUs, Triazines, and Triazolopyrimidines (TPS).

Molecules become (-) charged when a proton is removed or become (+) charged when a proton is added. Most herbicides become (+) charged in acid (H+) pH conditions. Positively charged herbicide molecules are adsorbed to the (-) charges on soil particles soil particles.

**Y1. Breakdown of Imidazolinone (Imi), TPS Herbicides, and some HPPD herbicides (Callisto).**

In general, breakdown occurs by soil microbes and breakdown occurs more rapidly and herbicide activity increases as soil pH increases. Rate of breakdown decreases in dry conditions. Imi and TPS herbicides are:

1. Broken down mass action - not broken down by hydrolysis.
2. Not degraded in anaerobic (waterlogged soil) conditions.
3. Not volatile nor photodegraded by sunlight.
4. Not leached beyond 12 inches.
5. Weakly bound to soil but strongly bound to OM.
6. Adsorbed more strongly as soil dries and through time.
7. For Imi herbicides applied in dry conditions, herbicide molecules adsorb to OM. The next spring, winter moisture can displace herbicide molecules from soil and OM allowing the molecules to become free for plant uptake and microbial breakdown. For sensitive crops like sugarbeet, the adsorption and desorption process may occur over several years causing crop injury from herbicide residues that become available after moisture events.
8. Negatively (-) charged, not adsorbed, and free for plant uptake and microbial degradation at acid pH. Triazine molecules bind to (-) charges on soil and OM making them more likely to occur following years with low rainfall because chemical decomposition.
9. Strongly bound to OM at pH <6.5 for Imi herbicides and pH <7 for TPS herbicides. For Imi herbicides: Amount adsorbed changes little from 6.5 to 8. At soil pH <6.5, pH reduction as small as 0.2 pH units can DOUBLE the amount adsorbed.

Large variation in pH can exist in the same field. In low pH, residues of Imi herbicides can injure sensitive plants for many years.

In summary, activity and degradation of Imi and TPS herbicides increase as soil pH increases. Herbicide adsorption increases as OM matter increases and as soil pH decreases. All factors increasing microbial activity also increase herbicide degradation (warm, moist soils). Degradation increases in soils with pH above 6.5 (Imi) or 7 (TPS) because herbicide molecules are not adsorbed and are free in soil solution for plant uptake and microbial breakdown.

**Y2. Breakdown of Triazine Herbicides**

Triazines are degraded by hydrolysis similar to SU herbicides. Therefore, the same factors affecting SU breakdown also affect breakdown of triazine herbicides - See Y3. Some slight differences are noted below. Triazine herbicides are:

1. More active in high pH soils.
2. Broken down by photodegradation only when herbicide remains on soil surface for extended periods.
5. SU herbicides are undissociated (neutral charge) at pH less than 7.0 and are adsorbed to soil and OM. As soil pH increases above 7.0 molecules are (-) charged, in a free form, do not bind with (-) charged soil particles, and are available for plant uptake.

**Y3. Breakdown of SU Herbicides (with exceptions):**

In general, most SU herbicides are broken down by acid hydrolysis and can leave a residue in soil for more than one year. The chemical reaction ceases at soil pH above 6.8.

**Exceptions:** Express*, Harmony*, Option, and UpBeet are rapidly broken down by soil mirobes. Permit and Resolve*/Matrix* are broken down faster by hydrolysis as pH moves above and below pH of 7.0. Herbicide breakdown is slowest in neutral soil pH of 7.0.

Most SU herbicides are:

1. Not leached, nor volatile, nor broken down by photodegradation.
2. Affected by pH. Water solubility increases as pH increases.
3. Broken down primarily by acid hydrolysis. Microbial degradation is very slow.
5. SU herbicides are undissociated (neutral charge) at pH less than 7.0 and are adsorbed to soil and OM. As soil pH increases above 7.0 molecules are (-) charged, in a free form, do not bind with (-) charged soil particles, and are available for plant uptake.

Even at low pH ranges, SU herbicides are so biologically active at low concentrations that plant response may still occur.

SU herbicides carryover more in high pH soils (above 6.8) because acid hydrolysis ceases above that level. Hydrolysis is minimally affected by soil moisture, organic matter, soil texture, soil microbes, and soil compaction or aeration. Hydrolysis is affected by soil temperature and soil pH. As temperature increases and pH decreases below 6.8, hydrolysis increases.

**Y4. Breakdown of Triazine Herbicides**

Triazines are degraded by hydrolysis similar to SU herbicides. Therefore, the same factors affecting SU breakdown also affect breakdown of triazine herbicides - See Y3. Some slight differences are noted below. Triazine herbicides are:

1. More active in high pH soils.
2. Broken down by photodegradation only when herbicide remains on soil surface for extended periods.
3. Triazine molecules are (+) charged at soil pH < 7.5. Positive charged triazine molecules bind to (-) charges on soil and OM making them unavailable for plant uptake and microbial breakdown. This is why pH sensitive herbicides like atrazine and Sencor* can be used with less risk of crop injury in low pH soils. However, as pH fluctuates across the field, herbicide availability may be radically altered ranging from complete crop safety and erratic weed control at low pH to crop injury and adequate weed control at high pH.

At high soil pH, the opposite reaction occurs. At soil pH > 7.5, triazine herbicide molecules donate protons (H+) resulting in (H + OH = H2O) so the molecules have a net neutral charge, which do not bind to soil particles and OM, and are free for plant uptake and microbial decomposition.

**Y5. Persistence of phytotoxic levels of a herbicide for more than 1 year can be a problem with some herbicides. Herbicide residues are most likely to occur following years with low rainfall because chemical and microbial activity needed to degrade herbicides are limited in dry soil. Crop damage from herbicide residues can be minimized by applying the lowest herbicide rate required for good weed control, by using band rather than broadcast applications, and by moldboard plowing before planting the next crop. Moldboard plowing reduces phytotoxicity of some herbicides by diluting the herbicide residue in a large volume of soil. Moldboard plowing is effective in reducing the residual effects of atrazine, Nortron, Prowl, Sencor*, Sonalan, and Treflan*.

*Or generic equivalent.
Representative soil samples of the whole field are obtained by sampling many places to the depth of the tillage layer. A soil sample free of herbicide residues can serve as the untreated check. More samples of untreated check soil and the test soil in pots or other containers with holes in the bottom for water drainage should be prepared. Alfalfa and canola also should be planted as an additional bioassay species because of their relative sensitivity to many residual herbicides. Plant seeds of large-seeded crops like corn or soybean at 1 seed per 1 to 2 square inches, or seeds of small-seeded crops like cereals or flax at about 1 seed per square inch. Water as needed but do not over-water. Thin plant stands when seedlings are 2 to 3 inches tall to allow sufficient space for adequate growth. Position containers in direct sunlight and maintain temperature at 70 to 75 °F. Observe the plants 2 to 3 weeks after emergence. Record visible and physical measurements such as plant height and leaf length for abnormalities.

Symptoms of some herbicides like atrazine* and Sencor* do not develop until 2 to 3 weeks after emergence. Observe roots of plants grown in root inhibiting herbicides, such as dinitroanilines. Window bioassay does not provide accurate information for ALS herbicide carryover.

Field Bioassay Instructions: Plant several strips of desired crops across the field perpendicular to the direction the suspect herbicide was applied. Strips should be spaced to represent different field conditions (texture, pH, and drainage). If no visible signs of injury, stand reduction, or yield reduction occur, then the field can be seeded with the desired crop the next growing season. Do not plant if injury occurs and the bioassay must be repeated the next growing season to determine the safety of the crop to existing residues.

Y7. Atrazine at rates over 0.38 lb ai/A generally has residue the year following application to corn in North Dakota. If soil moisture is deficient, atrazine may cause injury to susceptible crops the following year. Corn and millet are tolerant to atrazine while other crops vary in susceptibility. The approximate ranking of crops from most to least tolerant is corn, sorghum, millet, flax, soybean, barley, wheat, oat, sunflower, canola/mustard, alfalfa, and sugarbeet.

Y8. Balance Flexx (isoxaflutole) may have a residue the following year. Breakdown is primarily by microbial activity. Risk of Balance carryover increases as precipitation occurring during the growing season decreases. Balance becomes more active as soil texture becomes more coarse and organic matter decreases. Rotation restrictions are found on pages 108-110.

Y9. Banvel* (dicamba) at rates greater than 1.5 pt/A may remain as a residue in soil. Most grass and broadleaf crops can be planted 4 months or more after application at 1.5 pt/A. Allow 45 days/pt/A of Banvel*, excluding days when ground is frozen to rotate to any crop. NDSU research indicates Banvel* at 1 pt/A applied in late September caused visible injury to wheat and barley planted the following spring, but effect on yield was minimal. Banvel* at 1 pt/A applied the previous fall prevented seed production in sunflower. The approximate ranking of crops from most to least tolerant is corn, barley, wheat, oat, potato, buckwheat, soybean, dry edible bean, sunflower, flax, and sugarbeet. Rotation restrictions for Banvel* are found on pages 108-110.

Y10. Flexstar/Reflex (fomesafen) at 0.75 to 1 pt/A may have a residue the year following application to soybean or dry bean. Most crops can be planted the next growing season except canola, crambe, flax, potato, safflower, sugarbeet, and sunflower. Fomesafen is weakly adsorbed by OM but mobility and amount available for plant uptake increases as soil pH increases above 6.5. Degradation is through soil microbes and under anaerobic conditions. Conditions that inhibit microbial activity also reduce fomesafen breakdown. Cold or dry conditions after application reduce rate of breakdown. Northern production areas, like ND, have a shorter growing season and the soil temperature is colder for longer periods of time, which limits breakdown. Late applications in beans decreases the amount of time that breakdown can occur.

Ways to reduce risk of fomesafen carryover include lower application rates, banded herbicide applications, and tillage to dilute herbicide residues. The approximate ranking of non-labeled crops from most to least tolerant is cereals, potato, oil-seed rape/canola, field corn, sunflower, sugarbeet, sorghum, and alfalfa. Rotational crop restrictions for Flexstar/Reflex are found on pages 108-110.

Y11. Nortron* (ethofumesate) often has a residue the year following use on sugarbeet. The approximate ranking of crops from most to least tolerant is sunflower, dry beans, soybean, corn, barley, and wheat. Moldboard plowing usually will eliminate crop injury. Nortron should be applied in a band to reduce cost and reduce potential crop injury from residues the following year.

Y12. Sencor* (metribuzin) may not have residue the following year at 0.25 lb ai/A, but rates over 0.5 lb ai/A may damage susceptible crops the next year. Rotational crop restrictions for Sencor* are found on pages 108-110. The approximate ranking of crops from most to least tolerant is potato, soybean, dry edible bean, corn, barley, wheat, oat, sunflower, flax, and sugarbeet.

Y13. Sonalan (ethalfluralin), Prowl/Prowl H₂₀ (pendimethalin), and Treflan* (trifluralin) are similar herbicides called dinitroanilines. Under dry soil conditions these herbicides can persist in soil for more than 1 year. Sonalan has less soil residue than Treflan* and Prowl. Land treated with Sonalan in the spring may be planted to any crop the next year except sugarbeet. Sunflower, soybean, potato, and dry edible beans are quite tolerant of dinitroaniline herbicides. Rotational crop restrictions for Prowl, Sonalan, and Treflan* are found on pages 108-110. The approximate ranking of other crops from most to least tolerant is soybean, flax, alfalfa, barley, wheat, corn, oat, and sugarbeet.

Y14. Spartan (sulfentrazone) residue may remain in soil the following season. Most grass and broadleaf crops can be planted the following year except canola, crambe, lentil, and sugarbeet. Spartan is degraded by soil microbes, is not affected by sunlight, and is not volatile. Spartan applied PRE does not degrade on the soil surface. Precipitation activates the herbicide by moving it into the soil. Spartan solubility increases as soil pH increases above 6.5, as soil texture changes from fine to coarse, and as OM decreases. As Spartan solubility increases availability for plant uptake increases, weed control increases, and risk of crop injury increases. The approximate ranking of crops from most to least tolerant is soybean, flax, chickpea, mint, sunflower, potato, field pea, dry edible beans, safflower, crambe, lentil, and sugarbeet. Rotational crop restrictions for Spartan are found on pages 108-110.

*Or generic equivalent.

DO NOT USE IN ND = Beacon, Exceed, NorthStar, Scepter, Spirit, Steel.
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<td>Tordon (1.5 oz)</td>
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<td>NCS</td>
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<td>Treflan* (y)</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Valor / Chateau</td>
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</table>

*Or generic equivalent.
¹ Edible legumes = chickpea (garbanzo bean) / lentil.
NCS = Next cropping season after herbicide application.
2CS = Second cropping season after herbicide application.
MAA = months after application.

### Field Bioassay Instructions
- Refer to label or paragraph Y6 in the narrative section.

*a Soil pH <7.5 = 11 MAA for sunflower. Soil pH >7.5 = 18 MAA for sunflower. Soil pH <6.5 = 10 MAA for sugarbeet and all crops not listed. Soil pH >6.5 = 18 MAA for sugarbeet, potato, and all crops not listed + cumulative precipitation in 18 MAA period > 28 inches.
**B or b** = Bioassay. Do not plant until field bioassay indicates it is safe. Crop rotation after atrazine* is rate and soil pH dependant.

Python, Hornet, and SureStart require a 26 month rotation and a successful field bioassay.

FirstRate requires a 30 month rotation and a successful field bioassay.

Lightning, Pursuit, and Pursuit Plus requires a 40 month rotation and a successful field bioassay.

c  Do not use on soil with pH greater than 7.9. Barley and oat can be planted 6 months after application west of highway 83.

d  Requires soil pH of 7.9 or less and a 34 month minimum rotation interval and 28 inches of cumulative precipitation.

e  Requires soil pH of 7.9 or less, 22 months and 22 inches of precipitation west of Hwy 1 or 34 months and 34 inches of precipitation east of Hwy 1. These restrictions also apply to Ally Extra* at rates greater than 0.2 oz DF/A.

f  Clearfield (imidazolinone resistant) canola varieties may be planted the season after application.

Conventional canola varieties may be planted the following season after application at 1 pt/A in ND counties of Cavalier, Pembina, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner, and Walsh and MN counties of Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, and Roseau.

h  Any rotational crop may be planted 120 days following application of Banvel* at 1.5 pt/A or less, excluding days when ground is frozen. For all crops and rates greater than 1.5 pt/A allow 45 days per 1 pt/A of Banvel* used excluding days when ground is frozen.

j  Requires 15 inches of cumulative precipitation during the growing season following application. An 18 month restriction applies to Accent*, Resolve*, Prequel, and Steadfast applied above rates indicated or if drought follows application. Refer to label for crop rotation restrictions if rates greater than those indicated are used.

k  Requires 24 inches of accumulated precipitation.

m  Do not plant dry bean, dry pea, soybean or sunflower for 18 months on soil with less than 2% OM and rainfall less than 15 inches during the 12 MAA OR may be planted 12 MAA if risk of injury is acceptable. Perform a field bioassay prior to planting for areas that receive less than 15 inches of rainfall and have less than 2% OM. Do not plant lentil, potato or any other broadleaf crop grown for seed for 18 months unless risk of injury is acceptable.

n  Dry bean can be planted after 9 months at Impact rates of 0.5 fl oz/A or less.

p  Barley can be planted 9 months after application in Cass, Grand Forks, Pembina, Towner, Traill, and Walsh counties of ND. In all other counties of ND allow an 18 month rotation restriction before planting barley.

s  Corn can be planted only if Prowl*/H 20 are applied PRE. DO NOT APPLY PPI.

t  Rotation to barley is: 9 months east of Hwy 83 and 18 months west of Hwy 83.
Rotation to potato is: 9 months: soil pH >6.2 and rainfall is >18 inches/year or 18 months: soil pH <6.2 and rainfall is <18 inches/year
Rotation to sugarbeet: 18 months: soil pH >6.2 or 26 months if soil pH is less than 6.2.

u  Must add 2 months if soil pH is 7.5 or above. Wheat and barley can be planted 4 MAA following lentil or soybean.

v  Do not include time when soil is frozen. Sunflower and safflower are the most sensitive crops.

For Verdict: Fall seeded cereals can be planted 4 months after application. All crops can be planted the spring following application.

w  CRP grasses may be planted 13 MAA under the following conditions:
1. By label this is deemed as a non-standard rotation.
2. Dow assumes no liability for injury.
3. Fall is recommended as the best time to plant CRP grasses.
4. A field bioassay is recommended prior to planting CRP grasses.

x  Do not plant corn or sorghum until soil samples analyzed for Tordon residue indicates no detectable levels present. Restriction is based on non-legal herbicide residue that may be found in corn and sorghum and not on crop safety.

y  Oats, sorghum, and annual or perennial grass crops may be planted at least 12 MAA in areas that received 20 inches or more of precipitation during the growing season. CRP grasses may be planted 18 MAA if Treflan* is spring-applied or 21 MAA if fall-applied.

z  For rotation to field pea in 10.5 months, precipitation must be greater than 7 inches during the 10.5 months following application and greater than 5.5 inches of precipitation from June 1 to August 31 following application. Otherwise allow 18 months.

*Or generic equivalent.
Y16. Laboratories That Analyze For Pesticide Residue in soil, water, and plant samples.

For links to labs in each state see AGLABS website: http://aglabs.sdstate.org

For specific category testing of each lab see: http://www.findtesting.com

The following list shows laboratories that can analyze for pesticide residues:

- **A & L Great Lakes Lab**
  3505 Conestoga Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

- **Agvise Laboratories**
  Northwood, ND
  (701) 587-6010, johntlee@polarcomm.com

- **Analytical Laboratory**
  McCall Hall, PO Box 173620
  Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717
  406 994-3383, Heidi Hickes

- **Animal Disease Lab**
  9732 Shattuc Road, Centralia, IL 62801-5858
  (618) 532-6701, http://agr.state.il.us/animalHW/labs/centralialab.html

- **APT Labs Inc.**
  1050 Spring St., Wyomissing, PA 19610
  610 375-3888

- **Harris Laboratories**
  621 Rose Street, P.O. Box 80837, Lincoln, NE 68501

- **Hazelton Environmental Services**
  525 Science Drive, Madison, WI 53711
  (608) 232-3300

- **Midwest Laboratories**
  13611 B Street, Omaha, NE 68144
  (402) 334-7770, http://www.midwestlabs.com

- **Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories, Inc.,**
  326 Center Street, New Ulm, MN 56073
  (507) 354-8517, (800) 782-3557

- **Olson Biochem Labs, Duane Matthees**
  South Dakota State University
  Office = 134 ASC, Brookings, SD 57007-1217
  Samples = 152 ASC, Brookings, SD 57007-1217
  Office = (605) 688-6160, Lab = (605) 688-6171
  duane.matthees@sdstate.edu, http://anserv.sdstate.edu

- **Professional Service Industries**
  4820 West 15th Street, Lawrence, KS 66049
  (800) 548-7901

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Y17. Susceptibility of certain crops from most to least tolerant:

- **Chlorimuron:** soybean, wheat, oat, corn, sorghum, sunflower, alfalfa, canola, sugarbeet.

- **Imazethapyr:** soybean, alfalfa, corn, wheat, oat, sunflower, sorghum, canola, sugarbeet.

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<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>ppb</th>
<th>ppm</th>
<th>Safe Level*</th>
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<td>2-5</td>
<td>0.002-0.005</td>
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<td>Command (clomazone)</td>
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<td>0.075-0.15</td>
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<td>15-75</td>
<td>0.015-0.075</td>
<td>Wheat/Alfalfa</td>
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<td>Dinitroaniline</td>
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<td>Wheat</td>
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<td>50-70</td>
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<td>Pursuit (imazethapyr)</td>
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**“Safe” Atrazine Residue Levels**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oat and alfalfa</td>
<td>0.08 to 0.17 ppm</td>
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<td>Soybean</td>
<td>0.17 to 0.35 ppm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>&gt;0.17 ppm</td>
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**Publications on Herbicide Injury Symptoms:**

- **W-1141 Herbicide and Nonherbicide Injury Symptoms on Spring Wheat and Barley, NDSU Extension Service.**
- **A-1085 Herbicide Mode of Action and Sugarbeet Injury Symptoms NDSU Extension Service**
- **PNW-498 Herbicide Drift and Carryover Injury in Potatoes Ag Publications, U of ID, 208 885-7982, ckink@uidaho.edu**
- **CD-ROM:**
  - Herbicide Mode of Action and Crop Injury Symptoms (U of MN)
  - To order go to: http://shop.extension.umn.edu/
  - In the “Search” window type: 06893
  - Cost is $20.00 per CD-ROM
- **Web sites:**
  - Herbicide Mode of Action Symptoms (U of WI):
    http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pubs/PestMngmt_ref.htm
  - Herbicide Injury Diagnostic Key:
    http://ipcm.wisc.edu/uw_weeds/herbinjkey/