

AGRISECURE – WEED MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

January 2019

Successful organic production requires the execution of a thoughtful, proactive plan starting with a long-term crop rotation and continuing throughout each crop year. AgriSecure is fortunate to have a team of organic experts able to identify best practices as well as help clients react to in-season challenges.

AgriSecure's Weed Management Philosophy

#1 – Prevent Weeds Upfront	#2 – Get Proactive	#3 – Evaluate Alternatives
Leverage crop rotation & cover crops and balanced soil health as the first line of defense	Go on the offensive with pre-season tillage, killing weeds pre-emergence (white hair stage), and deploying the right tools	Weeds of 2 inches or more in height will be a challenge – so its time to evaluate alternatives.

Successful weed management requires overcoming challenges by leveraging strong agronomic & management practices (vs. relying upon synthetic solutions). AgriSecure's philosophy depends on the following five core elements.

- **Crop Rotation Plan** – execution a crop rotation that minimizes the weed seed bank, builds soil health (e.g., soil structure, organic matter, and biological activity), and largely mitigates the opportunity for crop specific weeds to persist.
- **Cover Crops** – leverage cover crops to minimize opportunities for weed pressure to develop, as well as capture other agronomic benefits (e.g., nitrogen). Weeds prey upon barren soil, cover crops help minimize the opportunity.
- **Proactive Plan** – execute a proactive plan to work the field from before planting through canopy to make sure weeds cannot take hold. Staying ahead of the game often means only minimal soil disturbance is required, which is AgriSecure's goal. Doing so requires closely monitoring weather so you can accomplish the needed tillage prior to canopy.
- **Tools for the Job** – make sure you have the tools & capacity for the job. Mechanical weed management tools are improving each year and remain quite reasonably priced. Equipment to consider include: cultivator, rotary hoe, tine weeder, and row burner.
- **Decide by ROI** – organic price premiums provide the opportunity for extraordinary profit, so let return on investment drive weed management decisions as saving a little might cost you a lot.

The AgriSecure team has a wealth of experience in managing weeds in ideal and challenging conditions and is constantly evaluating new techniques to enhance the tools in our toolbelt.