



**Michigan  
Agri-Business  
Association**

1501 North Shore Drive, Suite A  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

[www.miagbiz.org](http://www.miagbiz.org)

Telephone (517) 336-0223

Fax (517) 336-0227

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Contact: Chuck Lippstreu, Byrum & Fisk Communications  
[clippstreu@byrumfisk.com](mailto:clippstreu@byrumfisk.com)

**Pre-harvest dessicants will be important in 2015,  
but proper use and attention to detail needed**  
*Growers and agronomy suppliers encouraged to  
review use guidelines before application*

FRANKENMUTH – Weather challenges during the 2015 growing season already have some in the dry bean and soybean industry thinking about the need for pre-harvest dessicant herbicides, and **Michigan Agri-Business Association** vice president **Tim Boring** urged growers and agronomy suppliers to plan ahead and ensure proper desiccant use.

“With some of the weather challenges we’ve seen this spring, it’s likely we’ll have a wide range of plant maturities in a field when harvest begins,” said **Boring**. “We’ll see differences between plants over tile lines compared to those between the lines, while spot replanting may cause some real challenges. All these conditions combine to create a situation where pre-harvest desiccants will be important this year, making clear understanding of their use guidelines and requirements critical.”

**Joe Cramer**, executive director of the **Michigan Bean Commission**, emphasized the importance of taking time to review the use guidelines for any harvest aid:

“Michigan dry beans are known for quality, and when used properly, these tools can ensure a better and more predictable product,” said **Cramer**. “There’s also no silver bullet to ensure a good harvest, so before using a desiccant, growers need to take time, understand use guidelines, and work closely with their agronomy supplier. No pre-harvest desiccant herbicide applications should be made without fully consulting and following label requirements, especially the interval between application and harvest.”

**Boring** emphasized the following guidelines:

- Glyphosate, paraquat (*Gramoxone* or *Parazone*), and saflufenil (*Sharpen*) may be used as a pre-harvest aid for both soybeans and dry beans. Carfentrazone-ethyl (*Aim*) and dicamba (*Clarity*) are also options in soybeans while Flumioxazin (*Valor*) is available to use in dry beans.
- Application timing of these products is very important for optimal results and grain safety. Because of differences in herbicide mode of action, the pre-harvest interval for products ranges from 2 to 14 days. There are also very specific guidelines on when applications can be made depending on plant maturity, which can create challenges in fields with varying levels of crop maturity.
- Rotation restrictions pose a number of issues in Michigan. Dicamba should not be used when rotating to wheat. Sharpen has a five month rotation restriction to sugar beets, a timeframe that excludes the time when soil is frozen. Valor has a number of rotation limitations. At the recommended desiccant use rate of less than 1.5 oz/ac, wheat cannot follow for one month and one inch of rain. Alfalfa, oats and sugar beets may be planted after 4 months if the ground is tilled prior to planting or 8 months if no tillage is performed.
- Several products, including Sharpen, dicamba and glyphosate, should not be used on soybeans for seed.
- Glyphosate is only approved to control weeds that may hinder harvest, not for vine desiccation. Not all glyphosate products are labeled for preharvest applications. The translocating properties of glyphosate make it possible for herbicide residues to accumulate in harvested beans if applications occur before the hard dough stage.
- For the 2015 use season, maximum residual levels (MRLs) will not be established for exporting dry beans treated with Sharpen to Taiwan. In Korea, MRLs are only established in kidney beans.
- **No pre-harvest desiccant herbicide applications should be made without fully consulting and following label requirements.** Application timing, use rates, seed use, feed intentions, and rotation restrictions all must be closely followed. The Michigan State University Weed Control Guide lists herbicide products available to preharvest application, including rates and instructions for use.

Michigan State University has detailed instructions on dry bean harvest aid use available [here](#).

An in-depth discussion of soybean harvest aids is available [here](#).

For more information, contact the **Michigan Bean Commission, Michigan Agri-Business Association** or your local agronomy supplier.

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