Ultra Blazer Use on the 2022 Sugarbeet Crop

Section 18 for 2022

The EPA and both the MN and ND Departments of Agriculture have approved a Section 18 label for the use of Ultra Blazer herbicide on sugarbeets for the 2022 growing season. This label offers Minn-Dak growers an excellent postemergence weed control option for waterhemp and pigweed escapes.

Data in support of this label has been conducted by Dr. Tom Peters (NDSU & U of M Extension Sugarbeet Agronomist) and Emma Burt (NDSU Graduate Student & MDFC's Research Agronomist). Their research has primarily focused upon sugarbeet tolerance to the product and waterhemp control from Ultra Blazer with and without glyphosate present in the spray application.

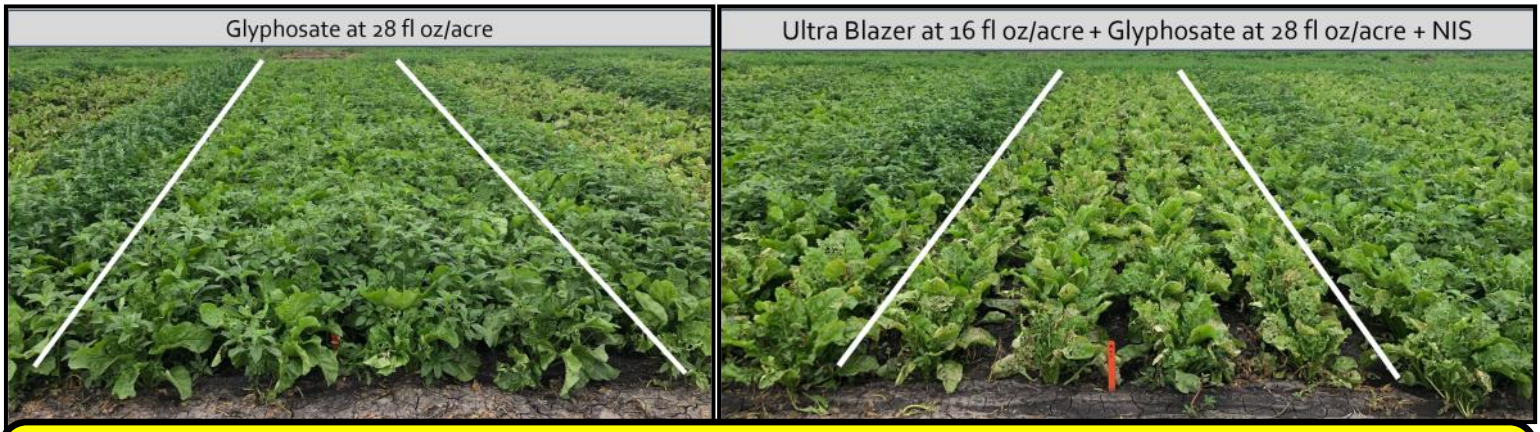
Ultra Blazer

Ultra Blazer (manufactured by UPL) is a postemergence contact herbicide classified as a PPO inhibitor (Group 14). Once the herbicide is activated by sunlight, oxygen compounds are formed that target and destroy plant tissue, thus killing weeds. Ultra Blazer is effective on weeds such as waterhemp and red root pigweed; it will be an extremely beneficial tool to manage glyphosate-resistant waterhemp escapes in this year's sugarbeet crop. Given its mode of action, Ultra Blazer **will cause leaf burn on the sugarbeet** (especially at warm temperatures), and applications to smaller sugarbeet (<6-leaf) will result in more severe crop injury.

Sugarbeet leaf burn from Ultra Blazer @ 16 fl oz/acre + NIS applied at the 12-leaf stage (image taken four days after application)

Is the 'Risk' Worth the Reward?

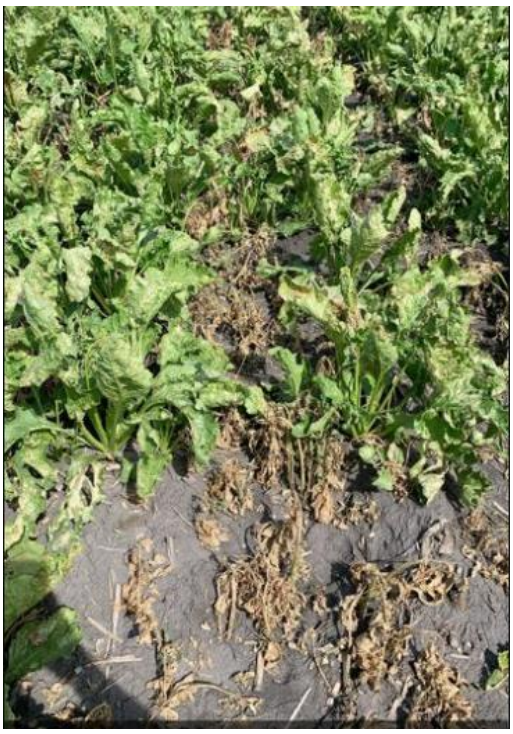
Simply put...YES!!! The experiments that were conducted evaluated sugarbeet tolerance to Ultra Blazer across various rates, application timings, adjuvants, and tank mixtures. It was determined that 16 fl oz/acre of Ultra Blazer applied at either the 4-6 leaf or the 10-12 leaf stage was not found to be statistically different from glyphosate applications at harvest. **Even though the sugarbeets were visually injured following an application of Ultra Blazer, that injury did not translate into yield or quality loss in any of the trial years.**



The images above were taken eight days after application and are from several of the aforementioned research trials with very severe waterhemp pressure. The treated rows between the white lines can be compared to the untreated rows outside the white lines. Weed escapes are visible in the glyphosate plot. Injury is visible in the Ultra Blazer plot, however, weed control is **excellent**.

So How Do I Apply It?

- 16 fl oz/acre + NIS @ 0.125% v/v
- Apply @ 6-12 leaf stage
- 20 GPA / 40 psi / flat fan nozzles
- Target weeds less than 4 inches tall
- **DO NOT** use any oil-based adjuvants
- REI = 48 hours
- PHI = 45 days
- **ONE** application per season
- May be tank-mixed with glyphosate
- **NO** aerial application
- **NO** applications after July 29th



The image to the right was taken in a 2021 Minn-Dak Sugarbeet Field six days after the application of Ultra Blazer and glyphosate. Take note that the level of control is similar to what was experienced in the research trials. Photo taken by Paul Moffet, Agriculturist - Hawes District.

Is There Anything That I Can Do To Reduce the Risk of Injury?

- **Do not** apply to sugarbeet smaller than 6-leaf
- **Do not** use oil-based adjuvants
- **Do not** tank-mix with any pesticides other than glyphosate
- Separate Ultra Blazer applications from any pesticide application containing oil-based products by 3-5 days (on either side)
- Do not apply when air temps exceed 80°F
- Make applications late in the day as temperatures begin to cool
- Sugarbeet and weeds may be more susceptible to Ultra Blazer in fields previously treated with a soil-applied herbicide
- Crop injury may increase with sudden weather changes (i.e. cool and cloudy conditions turn to hot and sunny conditions)
- High humidity may increase crop injury

The information provided in this issue is meant to assist your operation in making an effective Ultra Blazer application in 2022. Please consult your agriculturist and/or the product label for additional information.