

Combining Interseeded Cover Crops with Banded Herbicides for Weed Control in Sweet Corn

Research Report for 1998

New York State Integrated Pest Management Grants Program

Dr. Robin R. Bellinder, Andrew Miller, and Jonathan Kirkwyland
Department of Fruit and Vegetable Science
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4203

Introduction: Recent research has shown that applying herbicides to a narrow band over the crop row (banding) can reduce herbicide use by two thirds in corn. The increasing number of postemergence herbicides for corn will allow growers to control weeds that “escape” preemergence banded herbicides, decreasing the “riskiness” associated with banding herbicides. Additionally, interseeded cover crops may provide late season weed suppression. Previous research in field corn and preliminary research in sweet corn have shown that if interseeding is delayed until corn is 12 inches tall, weed control and corn yields are similar to when conventional herbicide programs are used. Combining banded herbicides with interseeded cover crops could permit substantial reductions in herbicide use without sacrificing weed control efficacy and, in the long term, improve soil conditions.

Objective: To determine the effect on weed control and sweet corn yield of banded herbicides in combination with interseeded hairy vetch, perennial ryegrass, or winter rye.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

IPM House
630 W. North St.
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
Geneva NY 14456
315-878-2353