

Residue Management of Kentucky Bluegrass in the High Plains. (C05-nielsen163901-Poster)

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Abstract:

Post harvest management of residue is one of the greatest problems facing the Kentucky bluegrass seed producer. Four replications of seven methods were tested over a three year time period. Treatments tested included: (1) baling plus propane burning as a standard check, (2) open field burning, (3) baling plus spraying with paraquat, (4) baling only, (5) paraquat only, (6) paraquat followed by open field burning, and (7) baling plus paraquat followed by propane burning. Results from the study indicate that open field burning may be of equal value to paraquat and propane burning in years where ceasing irrigation causes enough dessication to carry a consistent fire. Averaged over burn treatments baling was not a significant factor, but baling improved yields where no burning occurred. When no burning of residue was imposed paraquat improved yields, but had a negative effect on yields with both open field and propane burning. It appears that the lower cost alternative of open field burning may be as effective as any other residue management treatment if adequate dessication occurs.

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