Fate of Metolachlor During Winter in the Northern US Corn Belt. (S11-sharratt100623-Poster)

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Abstract:

Fall application of herbicides is of interest to farmers who seek to reduce the number of field operations during spring in the northern Corn Belt. A limited number of herbicides, however, have characteristics that minimize loss from soil over winter. This study examined the fate of one of these herbicides, metolachlor, during three consecutive winters near Morris, MN. Metolachlor was applied to repacked columns of clay loam. The columns were installed in the field soil profile in early November and extracted from the field throughout the winter. Columns were then sectioned and analyzed for metolachlor. At the time of complete soil thaw in spring, the majority of metolachlor was detected in the zone of application (0-5 cm depth). Some metolachlor was detected below the zone of application each year. This study suggests that fall-applied metolachlor moves little in a clay loam profile during winter.

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