

# MANAGE RESISTANCE *Now*

Protect your land, one field at a time

## CASE STUDY

**BARRY GATZKE,**

Grower, Belbutte, Saskatchewan



## Getting tough on herbicide-resistant wild oats

Barry Gatzke got wise about herbicide resistance when it became a reality on his farm near Belbutte, Saskatchewan about 10 years ago. He always had good control of wild oats in his wheat, but one season they just kept coming.

“It started in patches in the field,” he recalls. Some farmers may have assumed that it was a second flush of weeds brought on by the growing conditions, but Gatzke knew better. “I had a chem rep come out and he took samples of the wild oats to test for herbicide resistance. They came back positive for Group 1 resistance.”

That’s when Gatzke took a hard look to find the source of his problem.

### Rotate and mix herbicide groups

“I have a four-year rotation,” he says. “Typically, I grow canola, followed by wheat, followed by peas, followed by wheat, and then I’ll start over again with canola.”

Gatzke came to rely on a Group 1 herbicide for wild oat control in his wheat after he had some challenges with a Group 2 product.

“So basically, I was using a Group 1 wild oat chemical in my wheat and that was happening every second year,” he says. Then he treated the pea crop that grew between wheat years with a new product in hopes of achieving better weed control. What he didn’t factor in, however, is that the product combined Group 2 and Group 1 herbicides.

“I was using a Group 1 product three years in a row,” says Gatzke. “Obviously, that’s where the problem came from. I was overusing Group 1.”

**“I try to prevent spraying my fields more than once in three years with the same Group.” It’s a strategy that’s worked well, says Gatzke.**

As soon as he realized the issue, Gatzke made it a conscious effort to rotate and mix herbicide groups over growing seasons and across crops. “I try to prevent spraying my fields more than once in three years with the same Group.” It’s a strategy that’s worked well, he adds.

“I was really worried when I wasn’t going to be able to use the Group 1 products. I thought, how am I going to keep my fields clean? But I’m not having a problem with it,” he says.

## Do your homework on herbicide resistance

Gatzke believes learning about herbicide-resistant weeds is key. “I hear about resistance at lots of meetings. They talk about using two modes of action to manage resistance, but I think they should also be clear about making sure that you know which Group tackles which weeds.”

“You’ve got to do the research,” says Gatzke. For example, if a product combines a Group 2 and a Group 4 and you’re concerned about Group 2 resistant chickweed, make sure you know which part of the product targets chickweed. “If the Group 4 is not the one that’s taking out the chickweed, then it’s not helping your problem,” he says.

Gatzke says it’s important to do your homework and get ahead of resistance. “I find it’s way easier to be proactive than reactive. When you react to the problem, you’ve already got an issue,” he says. It may be difficult to change farming practices, but it’s all worth keeping your herbicide options open.



Gatzke took samples of wild oats in his wheat field to test for herbicide resistance. They came back positive for Group 1 resistance.”

**Gatzke says it’s important to do your homework and get ahead of resistance. “I find it’s way easier to be proactive than reactive. When you react to the problem, you’ve already got an issue.”**

For more information, visit [ManageResistanceNow.ca](https://www.ManageResistanceNow.ca)

This information is brought to you by CropLife Canada.

