

# IPM NEWSLETTER

## Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

No. 4

March 30, 2007

Past Newsletters and other information can be found at [UTCrops.com](http://UTCrops.com)

Bookmarks: [Corn and Soybean Update](#) [Weed Control Burndown](#) [Farm Management](#)

### Corn and Soybean Update (Dr. Angela Thompson, Extension Corn and Soybean Specialist)



We don't often get the opportunity to plant so much March corn in a short time period, but it looks like this year was an exception. With dry soils and warmer than normal temperatures, several West Tennessee counties are more than 70% completed. Other counties in middle and east Tennessee are making slower progress due to abnormally dry and severely dry soils. For those that are worried about 'falling behind', please remember that we are just now approaching April folks, which means we are actually in our 'normal' planting window for corn!! Hopefully we will all get a few good showers to germinate what has been planted recently

and provide an opportunity for others to get corn in the ground.

#### **Dry Weather Effect on Corn Emergence:**

A corn seed needs to absorb about 30% of its weight in water in order to germinate, and most corn planted into dry soils will eventually germinate. Seed sitting in dry soil is safer from disease pathogens, but remains vulnerable to wireworm, bird, and vole feeding damage the longer it sits in the ground. The least desirable outcome occurs when seed is placed in warm soil that has just enough moisture to swell the seed but not for radicle or shoot emergence. Fields with variable soils may have good emergence on better ground and poor or delayed emergence in areas that hold less water which can lead to stand problems. Luckily, the shower(s) West Tennessee received this week have helped emergence in the fields I have checked. For producers still planting in anticipation of showers in early April, pay careful attention to seed depth (1.5" or deeper) and make sure to close the slot.

#### **Early Soybeans Anyone???**

I have had a few calls from producers who are through with corn and want to plant soybeans the first week of April. Yes, upper soil temperatures have been hovering around 60+ degrees which is excellent for soybean emergence. However, I would caution producers not to jump out too early for the following reasons:

- A soybean seed must absorb almost **50%** of its weight in water to germinate, therefore adequate soil moisture is vital for uniform emergence.
- It is more difficult to get good seed-to-soil contact with round seed vs flat shapes and this is aggravated in dry soils.

- March planted corn will be harvested in August. A Maturity Group 3 soybean planted the first week in April will likely mature in August when we are heavily into corn harvest. A dry summer can hasten the maturity of Group 3's and sometimes MG 4's planted in April. Consider delaying soybean planting until the third week in April and planting MG 4 or MG 5 varieties if timely corn harvest and grain storage this fall are a strong concern.

### Weed Control / Burndown (Larry Steckel, Extension Weed Specialist)

It is very evident that many growers applied their burndowns over the last three to four weeks. Making burndown applications in mid-March was a recommendation that we in Extension, as well as chemical company representatives and agricultural retailers were consistently advising growers. Judging by the lack of calls about poor weed control and from walking a few of these fields, it appears that these March burndown applications have been very successful. One of my arguments about applying burndowns in March was that soils are typically wet in this month which should help several of our burndown herbicides work better. Of course (as Scott was not hesitant to point out) we then have an extremely dry March. The other point I made was that GR horseweed is smaller and easier to control in March. This turned out to be true.

There are a few fields that have not been burned down. Horseweed is now growing rapidly in these fields and some I have looked at are 4 to 6" tall. In addition our soils are as dry as they were last year at this time. This scenario is very similar to what we saw then where our burndown applications performed poorly controlling horseweed in many fields. The one difference from last year has been the warm air temperatures. Warm temperatures should allow Ignite before planting cotton or FirstRate before planting soybeans to provide more consistent horseweed control than they did last year. Below are some more thoughts on late horseweed burndown:



### Late Season Burndown Options for Soybean

- **Clarity 8 to 12 ozs/A**  
Management Considerations
  - a. Clarity rates **above 8 ozs/A** must be applied at least **28 days before planting plus receive 1" of rainfall** or soybean injury could occur.
  - b. Clarity rates of 8 ozs/A can be applied up to 14 days before planting and 1" of rainfall to avoid crop injury.
  - c. Use 12 ozs/A Clarity rate if horseweed is 6" tall, soil is dry and the field will not be planted to soybeans for at least 28 day. Plus you need 1" of rainfall.
  - d. Be cautious of making overlaps!!

- **Gramoxone Inteon 40 to 48 ozs/A + 0.25% NIS + Sencor 4 ozs/A or Boundary 20 ozs/A**  
Management Considerations
  - a. This application can be applied right up to planting.
  - b. Gramoxone Inteon rates below 40 ozs/A will not provide as consistent control of horseweed as higher rates.
  
- **FirstRate 0.3 to 0.4oz/A + Roundup WM 22oz/A**  
Management Considerations
  - a. This application can be applied right up through soybean emergence.
  - b. FirstRate will not provide good control of horseweed under cool conditions.
  - c. FirstRate performance is very temperature dependent. Works best with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s.

**Late Season Burndown Options for cotton**

- **Gramoxone Inteon 40 to 48 ozs/A + 0.25% NIS + Caparol 32 ozs/A or Cotoran 32 ozs/A or Direx 16 ozs/A.**  
Management Considerations
  - a. This application can be applied right up to planting.
  - b. Will provide good control but not as consistent as a Clarity tank-mix applied earlier.
  - c. Is a very strong follow-up burndown treatment for any horseweed escapes from early burndown.
  
- **Ignite 280 29 ozs/A + Caparol 32 ozs/A or Cotoran 32 ozs/A or Direx 16 ozs/A.**  
Management Considerations
  - a. This application can be applied right up to planting.
  - b. Ignite performance is very temperature dependent. Works best with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s.
  - c. Will provide good control but not as consistent as a Clarity tank-mix applied earlier.
  - d. Is a very strong follow-up burndown treatment for any horseweed escapes from early burndown.

**Farm Management Update – (Chuck Danehower, Area Specialist – Farm Management)**

The March 30 USDA Prospective Plantings report was released today at 7:30 a.m. This report is reflective of producers planting intentions as of March 1. The market should trade this report into next week and then change to weather and planting conditions. A breakdown of the report is as follows:  
March 30 Prospective Plantings Report in million acres.

Crop	U.S	% Change from 06	TN	% Change from 06
Corn	90.5	+15%	.780	+42%
Cotton	12.1	-20%	.560	-20%
Soybeans	67.1	-11%	1.070	-8%
Wheat	60.3	+5%	.400	+43%

The report would seem to be bearish corn, friendly cotton & soybeans and neutral wheat. However, initially the market is corn down \$.20, cotton unchanged, soybeans down \$.08 (was down \$.27), and

wheat down \$.22. With the interest in bio-fuels and the crop demand they create, the market will continue to have its volatility. Plugging in today's planting intention acres into supply & demand tables at trend yields, the carryover for the 07-08 crops would be about even to moderate increase for corn, 40%- 50% reduction in carryover for cotton, and a 40% - 60% decrease in soybeans.

The market will quickly change from this report to actual planting reports which will include weather patterns. Later in the summer, the market will take the perceived planting acres and focus on yield prospects which will include the possibilities or effects of drought.

What should producers do now? First, don't panic if prices are going down and you don't have enough priced. Watch for opportunities to price your crop either through forward price contracts or options. With a drop in prices, it could be a good time to buy call option to go along with your cash contracts if case of a weather related rally.

My initial response from today's report is that corn prices will eventually drop if trend yields are maintained. Cotton has become a true global market and any price increase will depend more on foreign production and demand. I am leaning toward seeing a price increase late in 2007, probably 2008. Unless yields are a record, soybean future prices will probably settle in the \$7.25 - \$7.75 range by harvest. These thoughts as well as what brokers and analyst say can change in a hurry depending on the latest news. Keep a watchful eye on market reports. I email Dr. Delton Gerloff's market report at the end of each week. If you are not receiving this information currently and would like to, please email me at [scdanehower@utk.edu](mailto:scdanehower@utk.edu) and I will add you on my list. If you are undecided on some acres or would like a whole farm plan and assessment on your operation, drop me an email at the above address or call me at 731-635-9551. If you don't happen to me in my work area, I will get you lined up with an Farm Management Specialist in your area.

The Agricultural Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex religion, disability or veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating in furtherance of Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Agricultural Extension Service, Charles L. Norman, Dean.

#### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication. Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), The University of Tennessee, The Institute of Agriculture and the University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

Scott D. Stewart (editor)  
Extension Cotton IPM Specialist

