

## IPM NEWSLETTER

### Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

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#### Weed Management (Larry Steckel, Weed Specialist)

Spring is much delayed compared to last year at this time. This is both good and bad. The good side is that we do not want too much growth on the wheat and make it susceptible to another early freeze. The draw back being we have had just a small and, in some cases, no window to apply herbicides to wheat or early burndowns. 1<sup>st</sup> node is the wheat stage that is the cutoff for several herbicides. This applies for herbicides like Osprey, Axial, Hoelon, dicamba and 2,4-D. Judging by many of the wheat fields I have walked, barring a quick prolonged warm up, we still have ten days to two weeks before we see 1<sup>st</sup> joint. So we still have some time to utilize those herbicides.

What has developed into one of the more popular producer tankmixtures for weed control in wheat is 3 ozs/A of dicamba with 0.5 to 0.75 ozs/A of the new formulation Harmony Extra Total Sol. This really has been a very good tankmixture with the dicamba helping control many winter annuals including glyphosate-resistant (GR) horseweed. Controlling GR horseweed now is much easier than trying to do something with it after wheat harvest. Remember to use higher rates of Harmony Extra Total Sol when fields have heavy garlic pressure and/or when weeds are not growing quickly (which has been the case lately).

There are two misprints in the wheat section of the 2008 Tennessee Weed Control Manual. The first is on page 59 that states STS soybeans must be planted after Harmony Extra Total Sol. That is not correct **ANY soybean variety can be double cropped behind Harmony Extra Total Sol**. The second misprint is on page 60 that states the rate of Axial XL is 0.5 pt/A. **The new formulation Axial XL is to be applied at 16.4 oz/A**. Axial XL can be applied up to pre boot stage. The current label recrop to soybeans behind an Axial XL application is 120 days. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

The number one wheat weed control question lately has been what to do with annual bluegrass (Poa). The best answers would have been to use either Osprey or 4 ozs/A of Sencor back in the fall. In most cases those fall applied treatments have provided good control (70 to 90%) of bluegrass but that is water under the bridge now, so the best answers are to use Osprey now **or** apply the nitrogen as soon as possible which should help the wheat out run the bluegrass. **Remember not to try to do both close together** as an Osprey application within two weeks of an nitrogen application can injure the wheat. Which way should you go? That depends on the stage of the blue grass when you can get over the field. If the bluegrass has not yet headed out then Osprey should still do a respectable job suppressing it. However, if most of the bluegrass is headed out you would be money ahead to just go with the nitrogen.

It is evident driving through West Tennessee last week that some early burndowns have been applied. As most of you are probably aware we are recommending that our burndown go out early this year. What is early? I define early as applying burndowns on glyphosate-resistant horseweed (marestalk) prior to it bolting. Last year horseweed started bolting in early March. This year as cold as it has been it will be several weeks before it starts to grow. As long as we can apply dicamba prior to the horseweed reaching 4" tall we should receive very good control.

Finally, one of the biggest changes in weed control in general this year is the dramatic increase in glyphosate prices. A 0.75 lb ae/A (22 oz/A Roundup PowerMax) application which cost about \$4.00/A last year is now running anywhere from \$8.00 to \$12.00/A depending upon when a producer locked in the price. Moreover, it appears the price will go up as the year progresses. Soybean producers should consider using one of the many soybean premixes which include Authority First, Authority MTZ, Canopy, Canopy XP, Gangster, Prefix, and Valor XLT. These run anywhere from \$7.00 to \$10.00/A and now make a lot of sense economically. In most cases they will eliminate one over-the-top glyphosate application. Moreover, they also make sense from a glyphosate-resistant weed management stand point. Remember if you use an Authority product on soybeans this spring that the field can not be rotated back to cotton next year.



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Scott D. Stewart (editor), Extension Cotton IPM Specialist

