

IPM NEWSLETTER

Update for Field Crops and Their Pests

No. 1

March 3, 2006

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Weed Control (Larry Steckel, Assistant Professor)

Wheat. Spring has sprung here in early March! Many have taken advantage of the nice weather at the start of March for applying herbicides to wheat and fertilizer to all crops both present and planned. A number of phone calls have come in asking about a new wheat herbicide from Syngenta called Axial.

We have looked at Axial as an experimental the last two years. It looks like a promising new herbicide for ryegrass control in wheat. This is a new herbicide and Syngenta is still fine tuning the label. It has no activity on broadleaves but the current label has a 120 day waiting period before one can plant a grain crop after an Axial application. This will probably change next year but for this year double crop soybeans could not be planted until early July if Axial is sprayed in early March.

Burndown. It is now time to start planning and in some cases implementing early burndown programs. The price of diesel coupled with more producers feeling confident that they can burndown some very hard to control winter annual weeds will likely increase no-till acres.

Ryegrass burndown is a common question this time of year. In many cases producers wait too long to burndown this weed. Ryegrass that is in the late-tiller to early-boot stage is very difficult to control regardless of herbicide. When it reaches this stage, a full 1 lb a.e./A rate of a glyphosate product, is required. Often follow-up applications must be made particularly when ryegrass is in the boot stage. Control of ryegrass is much easier when it has just emerged to the early tiller stage.

The new Tennessee 24c label for Clarity applied ahead of cotton is now 15 days before planting **plus** an inch of rainfall. The labeled waiting period for soybeans planted behind Clarity has been 14 days **plus** an inch of rainfall. Our research has

shown that if these requirements are met, Clarity will not injure cotton or soybeans. However as we experienced last year during the dry May, there are no guarantees on rainfall. That is why we still recommend 21 days ahead of planting applications for Clarity before both crops. This is a suggestion



Horseweed

not the law, but field experience last year has taught us that closer to planting applications of Clarity can injure cotton or soybeans under dry conditions.

Continued field experience with burndown of glyphosate-resistant (GR) horseweed has shown that there is a difference between 2,4-D and Clarity. In research studies over the last 4 years, we saw comparable GR horseweed control with either 2,4-D or Clarity tank-mixed with either Gramoxone Max or glyphosate. However, our experience the past 4 years on producers fields is that 2,4-D is not as consistent as Clarity for GR horseweed burndown. The following recommendations reflect this.



➤ **0.75 lbs ae/A glyphosate + 8 ozs/A Clarity**

Positives

- a. Has been the most consistent winter annual control option the past several years.
- b. Provides very consistent glyphosate resistant horseweed and cutleaf eveningprimrose control.

Management Considerations

- a. 21 day recrop interval before planting soybeans or cotton.
- b. Higher rates and/or repeat applications of glyphosate may be needed to adequately control ryegrass
- c. Sprayer clean-out of Clarity is critical before applying post products to soybeans or cotton.
- d. Will provide inconsistent control of annual bluegrass.

➤ **32 ozs/A Gramoxone Max + 8 oz/A Clarity**

Positives

- a. Gramoxone is the best burndown product for annual bluegrass.
- b. Will control glyphosate resistant horseweed.
- c. Very easy to clean out of sprayers.

Management Considerations

- a. 21 day (Clarity) recrop interval before planting soybeans or cotton.
- b. Sprayer clean-out of Clarity is critical before applying post products to soybeans or cotton.
- c. Control of ryegrass can sometimes be inconsistent.

Wheat Insect Control (Russ Patrick and Scott Stewart, Extension IPM Specialist)

Aphids in wheat are not usually an issue at this time of year. Although present, the biggest concern is fall transmission of BYD virus. Research clearly indicates that it is fall aphid treatments, not springtime ones, that really reduce the severity of this virus. Although there have been no reports of true armyworms causing problems, it is advisable to watch in late March or early May for this pest. It is still a little early. However, it won't hurt to spot check fields for armyworms when you are treating

with herbicides and fertilizing. UT recommends treatment for armyworms when larvae number 4 or more per square foot. Recent data from Arkansas suggest that even higher number can be tolerated as long as head are not being clipped. Insecticide recommendations for armyworms are given in the publication linked below.

Wheat Insect Recommendations: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/PB941.pdf>

Corn Insect Control (Scott Stewart and Russ Patrick, Extension IPM Specialists)

As we near corn planting, it is time to think about burndown, cutworms and at-planting insecticides (including seed treatments). Cutworms are historically a relatively common pest of no-till corn. Even though serious infestations are rare, they can dramatically reduce corn stands. Consequently, a pyrethroid application at burndown or behind the planter is often justified. This is usually not necessary in conventionally, spring tilled fields or in no-till corn if a field is kept weed free for 2-3 weeks prior to planting. However, early burndown applications are sometimes challenging to get out. Relatively low rates of a pyrethroid insecticide are economical and effective. Costs can be further



reduced if they are banded behind the planter (minimum of a 7-10 inch band). If Lorsban 15G, Force 3G or Aztec 2.1G are used, they should provide excellent cutworm control (but don't place all of the product in-furrow, T-banding is suggested). These treatments are not necessarily popular, but they also provide effective control of many other corn soil and seedling pests. Seed treatments, particularly Poncho and Cruiser, are becoming popular. Both Poncho 250 (0.25 mg ai/kernel) and Cruiser Extreme (0.25 mg ai/kernel) provide protection against many soil insects including seed corn maggots, white grubs, wireworms and rootworms (suppression). Poncho 250 also provides suppression of cutworms, and at comparable rates, appears to outperform Cruiser against sugarcane beetles. Cutworm control may be inconsistent with Poncho 250 depending upon pest pressure and the size of the caterpillars present. In late burndown situations, a pyrethroid application may still be justified.

Overall, soil insect pests are sporadic and unpredictable. However, the risk of problems is higher in reduced-till situations (including most of Tennessee) and anytime weedy vegetation is allowed to persist close to planting. At-planting insecticides or seed treatments are normally recommended on at least part of you corn acreage. Insecticide choices and rates are listed in the publication linked below.

Corn Insect Recommendations: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/publications/pbfiles/pb1064.pdf>

Cotton Variety Trial Information, etc. (Scott Stewart, Extension IPM Specialist)

Although most folks have completed their seed orders, I wanted to remind everyone that variety trial information is available on the utcrops.com website at the address below. Besides yield and fiber quality information, data on seedling vigor and earliness are also included. This information can help make decisions on when and where to plant certain varieties.

Cotton Variety Trials: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/varieties.htm>

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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.



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