

## **IPM NEWSLETTER**

### **Update for Field Crops and Their Pests**

No. 1

February 13, 2009

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Bookmarks: [Boll weevil eradication referendum](#) [Wheat outlook](#) [Weed control - wheat and burndowns](#)

#### **Upcoming Boll Weevil Eradication Referendum (Scott Stewart, IPM Specialist)**

A Boll Weevil Eradication Program Referendum will be held March 9-20, 2009. This will be a statewide referendum establishing a maximum annual assessment rate not to exceed \$5 per acre. Growers and landowners with a financial interest in cotton grown during 2007 and 2008 should receive ballots in the mail. Ballots will be mailed the week before the above dates.

If passed, the entire state will be under the same legislative authority, and it will reduce the West Tennessee assessment from the current maximum of \$12.25/acre. Only 23 boll weevils were caught in Tennessee during 2008, and all program debts have been repaid in full. Thus, this referendum will essentially establish a maintenance program for the next 10 years. All those involved in eradication should be congratulated on this remarkable achievement including producers, regulatory agencies and those involved in program administration. Boll weevil eradication will pay dividends indefinitely. This includes reduced insecticide costs and the continued higher yields that have been observed since the onset of the program.



Thanks to Boyd Barker (Tennessee Department of Agriculture) and the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation for providing this information.

#### **Wheat Outlook and Situation (Chris Main, Extension Cotton and Small Grains Specialist)**

Wheat plantings were down this year nearly 40% from 2008. Any fields seeded after November 5<sup>th</sup> have struggled to emerge to a stand and still look poor compared to wheat planted a week or two earlier. We are past the point when I would consider split applying top-dress nitrogen (N). Split applying to thin stands with low tiller counts can be beneficial, but we are close enough to breaking dormancy I would apply the balance of top-dress N in a single application. To get maximum advantage from N you need to have it applied to wheat BEFORE it begins to joint. Applying before jointing allows urea forms to convert to nitrate and be available for uptake when the stem begins to elongate.

If you have wheat fields that average less than 3 tillers per plant currently, you may wish to consider burning these fields down and planting a different summer annual crop. Tiller count during this time of year directly influences yield potential and how early the crop will mature. Low tiller count wheat can still produce a crop, but it will most likely delay harvest and have low yield potential. The decision to keep a stand should be made BEFORE applying top-dress N. This will help keep down the cost of lost inputs in the wheat crop.

## Weed Control – Wheat and Burndown Considerations (Larry Steckel, Weed Specialist)

**Wheat.** Ryegrass populations are down this year in most wheat fields I have walked. It seems it did not get established very well last fall for whatever reason. However, I have noticed lately that some previously ryegrass clean fields are starting to see some newly emerged ryegrass. Be sure to scout your wheat fields to check for this. There have been calls coming in with folks interested in spraying wild garlic (onions) in wheat. The main concern is whether or not there is enough new growth on the wild garlic to obtain good control with Harmony Extra. Harmony Extra is primarily taken up through the foliage. Therefore new growth in the spring is essential to obtain good control.



The Harmony Extra label states that 2 to 4 inches of new growth from stressed weeds is essential for good control. The mistake many make is to look for the new growth at the end of the garlic leaf. The new growth actually comes from the bulb area and not from the end of the leaf. Some have also asked about adding Clarity in at this time with their Harmony Extra. Clarity can be safely used in wheat up to the first wheat joint. Though I haven't seen every field, it is apparent there is little garlic pressure in the wheat sowed in fields that have been in cotton for several years. In a few fields there has been so little it was not worth spraying. It may save you some money to step out and scout the garlic level in these fields.

**Burndown.** One overall observation on the winter annual weed pressure this spring is that bluegrass and henbit pressure is extremely heavy across many Tennessee row crop acres. In general, horseweed pressure appears to be less robust than it was at this time last year. As many of you are aware I am strongly recommending that we apply burndowns to control horseweed in February or early March this year. The reason for this is that in research as well as in growers' fields we have seen more consistent horseweed control with burndowns applied early than in April or May. Another reason is that with very early burndowns which would be applied more than 30 days before planting (DBP) higher rates of Clarity (dicamba) may be used prior to planting soybeans. In soybean fields with very heavy horseweed pressure 12 ozs/A of Clarity applied 30 DBP should provide better control than 8 oz/A. In fields with moderate horseweed pressure (<10/sq ft) 8 ozs will likely provide adequate control. Unfortunately, Clarity is not labeled to be applied at any more than 8 ozs/A before cotton planting. **Remember the 8 oz/A Clarity rate can be applied up to 21 DBP cotton or soybeans while one must wait 30 DBP soybeans if rates higher than 8 oz/A of Clarity are used.**

**Residual in with the burndown.** One change I have made with this early burndown recommendation this year is to not put in a residual with the Clarity for February or early March applications. We need our residual products used closer to planting (30 to 14 DBP). The residual component then can provide control of both GR horseweed and GR Palmer amaranth while the crop is becoming established. If some GR horseweed has emerged after the February burndown an application of Gramoxone in with the residual product should control those very small horseweed.

**Conventional Soybeans.** This winter meeting season I have seen an uptick in the number of folks asking me about going back to conventional soybean herbicide program. The main thing driving this is premiums some elevators are offering for non-GMO soybeans in the Bootheel of Missouri and in Middle Tennessee. If you are looking into going with a conventional herbicide program be sure to get your herbicides locked in now! Last year many retailers ran very short of or out of herbicides like FlexStar and FirstRate. Folks from various chemical companies have informed me that they will have more supply of conventional herbicides this year. However, I am not sure they have factored in that we will have significantly more soybean acres and that most of our Roundup Ready soybean acres will also get a Pre applied herbicide to manage GR Palmer amaranth.

There are quite a few different herbicides being used to provide residual weed control in soybeans this spring including Authority First/Sonic, Dual Magnum, Canopy, Gangster, Sencor, Prowl and Valor XLT but the most popular herbicides appear to be Canopy EX, Prefix and Valor. Below are some thoughts on these herbicides:

➤ **Canopy EX (Classic + Express) Rate: 1.1 to 3.3 oz/A**

Positives

- a. Provides good residual control of many broadleaf and some grassy weeds.
- b. The 2 oz/A rate is the rate of choice for tank mixing for early burndowns.

Management Considerations

- a. Will not control ALS resistant Palmer amaranth.
- b. Rotation back to cotton is 10 months and to corn is 7 months.

➤ **Valor Rate: 2 to 3 oz/A**

Positives

- a. This has been one of the more popular Pre applied herbicides the past couple of years in soybean and cotton.
- b. Provides excellent small seeded broadleaf weed control (like pigweeds and horseweed).
- c. This is one of the most crop flexible herbicides as cotton and corn may be planted 30 days after a 2 oz/a application. Soybeans can be planted immediately after a Valor application.

Management Considerations

- a. Will provide some grass suppression.

➤ **Prefix (Dual Magnum + Reflex) Rate: 1 qt/A**

Positives

- a. This is a new premix that has provided exceptional residual control of small seeded broadleaf and grassy weeds in our research.
- b. It is one of the soybean premixes that provides residual control of the widest spectrum of broadleaf and grassy weeds. The others would be Canopy and Valor XLT.

Management Considerations

- a. 1 qt of Prefix is equivalent to 1pt of Reflex and 1 pt of Dual.
- b. If Prefix is used Pre no FlexStar/Reflex can be used post.
- c. If crop plans change, cotton can be planted 1 month after a Prefix application. Corn can be planted 10 months after application.

- **Authority First or Sonic (Authority + FirstRate) Rate: 6.45 oz/A**
  - Positives
    - a. Provides good all around residual control of horseweed, pigweeds and morningglory species.
  - Management Considerations
    - a. Rotation interval for Authority containing products is 18 months for cotton.
    - b. FirstRate will not burndown glyphosate-resistant horseweed under cold conditions (< 70F).
  
- **Gangster (Valor + FirstRate) Rate: 1.8 to 3.6 oz/A**
  - Positives
    - a. Provides good all around residual control of horseweed, pigweed and many other weeds.
    - b. It was used by a lot of growers last year who had good results.
  
  - Management Considerations
    - a. 1.8 oz/A of Gangster provides 0.3 oz/A of FirstRate and 1.5 oz/A of Valor.
    - b. FirstRate will not burndown glyphosate-resistant horseweed under cold conditions (< 70F).
    - c. This product is a co-pac so if conditions are cold use dicamba to burndown glyphosate-resistant horseweed and add the Valor for residual control. Then use the FirstRate post in the soybeans as needed.
  
- **Canopy (Classic + Sencor) Rate: 2 to 7 oz/A**
  - Positives
    - a. This premix has been around for many years and has had a great track record for providing residual control of a broad spectrum of weeds.
    - b. The 4 oz/A rate is typically used for tank mixing for early burndowns.
  
  - Management Considerations
    - a. Do not apply on soils with less than 1% OM.
    - b. Recrop to corn and cotton is 10 months after a Canopy application.
  
- **Dual Magnum or Prowl or Sencor**
  - Positives
    - a. These herbicides have been around a long time and most folks are familiar with them.
    - b. Dual Magnum and Prowl provide great residual small-seeded broadleaf and grass control.
    - c. Sencor provides good control of many broadleaf weeds and is a good tank mix partner.
  
  - Management Considerations
    - a. Dual Magnum and Prowl can typically be purchased at lower prices when they are in a premix.

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