



SWNY Field Crop Finds

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An Herbicide Reminder - Mesotrione Mixtures

*This article has been adapted from Syngenta by
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Mesotrione is an HPPD (4-hydroxy-phenylpyruvate dioxygenase) inhibiting herbicide that is applied preemergence on all corn types and postemergence on field corn and seed corn. Prior to the introduction of bicyclopyrone from Syngenta, mesotrione was the only HPPD-inhibiting herbicide on the market that could be applied both preemergence and postemergence to field and seed corn.

The EPA has not approved, and specifically does not allow, applicators to tank mix Callisto with grass herbicides that are emulsifiable concentrates (Dual Magnum®, Dual II Magnum®, Surpass® EC plus many more S-metolachlor, acetochlor and generic metolachlor products). This statement does not mean it is okay to tank mix provided the user is willing to accept the injury risk – it is a specific, off-label use. There are no other places on the Callisto label that allow for this tank mixture.

The label is a legal document published by the U.S. EPA to instruct applicators of the proper, approved use of a pesticide. Where the label contains a “do not” statement, it is impermissible to use the product in the manner described. Penalties can result from off-label uses, and specific penalties vary by state.

Mesotrione is absorbed from foliar applications through the leaves and shoots of crop and weed plants. Any tank mix additive(s) that affects the leaf epicuticular waxes will have an impact on how quickly mesotrione is absorbed from postemergence applications.

Pheromone Traps

	BCW	BCW	TAW	TAW
	Farmersville	Lawtons	Farmersville	Lawtons
5/12/2025	0	0	0	0

BCW = Black Cutworm TAW = True Armyworm

This week, no moths were caught at my trap locations. However, other areas throughout WNY have received significant flights of BCW. Based on Growing Degree Day accumulation, BCW eggs have already started hatching or are about to. The next thing to pay attention to is those larvae getting large enough to cut corn plants.



Photo by Syngenta

When products with emulsifiers or organic solvents are tank mixed with Callisto (or other mesotrione products), there is significant risk of crop injury and possibly even corn death. A key reason why the Callisto label prohibits the use of MSO-type additives is because these additives increase the speed of uptake, increasing the risk of corn injury. Each herbicide and tank mix additive contains emulsifiers, organic solvents or surfactants that, when applied postemergence with Callisto (or other mesotrione products), increases the risk of herbicide uptake and corn injury.