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Late postemergence herbicide applications in field corn: How tall is too tall?

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It's early July, how clean are your corn fields? The dry weather conditions in May and June resulted in less than perfect weed control from many of the preemergence herbicides programs. We are now at a point in the growing season when this is your last chance to get the weeds controlled in your corn fields.

Before a field of taller corn is sprayed you need to ask the question "How tall can the corn be when you spray?". Postemergence corn herbicides have restrictions on the maximum height of the corn at the time of application. Once corn reaches 12 inches tall, atrazine and atrazine containing premixes are not an option. There is even a 30" corn height restriction for glyphosate applied to glyphosate tolerant (Roundup Ready) corn and a 24" corn height restriction for glufosinate applied to glufosinate tolerant (Liberty Link corn).

Late postemergence herbicide choices for conventional corn are somewhat limited once the corn exceeds 20 inches in height. Most, if not all, late total postemergence conventional corn herbicide programs will require more than one product in the tank mix. Correctly identifying the weeds present and actually measuring the heights of both the corn and weeds will be critical. The heights of the weeds will often times dictate the rates of many of these herbicides. Pay close attention to the herbicide labels and the adjuvants necessary to add to the spray tank.

Here is a list of many postemergence herbicides and the over the top maximum corn heights as listed on the label for taller corn:

- Accent Q- 20" or V6
- Acuron Flexi- 30" or V8
- Acuron GT- 30" or V8
- Aim- V8
- Armezon Pro- 30" or V8
- Dicamba/Clarity- 36"
- Buctril- Before tassel
- Callisto- 30" or V8
- Callisto GT- 30" or V8
- Capreno- V6
- Diflexx- V10 or 36" whichever comes first
- Diflexx DUO- 36" or V7 (7th leaf collar)
- Halex GT- 30" or V8
- Harmony SG- 16" or 5 collars
- Impact/Armezon-up to 45 days before harvest
- Impact CORE- 11"
- Harness MAX- 11"
- Hornet WDG- 20" or V6
- Laudis- V8
- Peak- 30"
- Permit- Layby (about 36" tall corn)
- Permit Plus- 6 leaf corn (5 collars)
- Realm Q- 20" or V7
- Resolve Q- 20" or before V7
- Resicore XL- before 24"
- Resource- V10
- Revulin Q- 30" or V8
- Shieldex 400SC- 20" or V6 whichever comes first
- Status- 36" or V8
- Steadfast Q- 20" but before V7
- Stinger- 24"
- Yukon- 36"

It is not an ideal situation when we are dealing with taller corn and weedy fields. It is difficult to control taller weeds and yield losses can be expected due to the early season competition with the corn. It is important to read and follow all label directions prior to the application of any herbicide. If you have any questions about field corn weed control or would like to schedule a field visit contact Mike Hunter at (315) 788-8450 or Kitty O'Neil at (315) 854-1218.