

Conventional soybean weed control revisited

By: Mike Hunter, Field Crops Specialist, CCE North Country Regional Ag Team

Glyphosate resistant (Roundup Ready) soybeans made postemergence weed control relatively easy with a single application. Recently, there have been a renewed interest in conventional soybean weed control options. Many of these soybean growers haven't planted conventional soybeans in well over a decade and the younger soybean growers have never planted conventional soybeans.

Regardless of a growers' reason to plant conventional soybeans, preemergence weed control programs are almost a necessity for growing conventional soybeans. It is extremely difficult to rely on a total postemergence conventional soybean weed control program. We have limited options for controlling broadleaf weeds with conventional soybean herbicides. It is imperative that we start out with a preemergence herbicide before or at time of planting and then be ready to apply a postemergence application to any weeds that escape. Timing of conventional postemergence soybean herbicides is critical because they won't kill big weeds.

Here are some suggested conventional preemergence soybean herbicide programs to consider. These suggestions are based on the assumption that the herbicide will be applied before the soybean and weeds have emerged. The soil residual herbicides are to be used at the full labeled rate based on weed species and pressure. Some of the products application rates are determined by soil type, pH and organic matter content. If sufficient rainfall is received soon after the preemergence herbicide is applied we should expect reasonably good weed control with the following herbicide programs.

For situations where nutsedge, annual grass and broadleaf weeds are a problem, consider tank mixing S-metolachlor (Dual Magnum, Dual II Magnum, Cinch) with Python WDG. If common ragweed is a problem the addition of Dimetric DF (metribuzin (the old Sencor or Lexone)) will improve control. Another option would be to use S-metolachlor and Lorox DF. Keep in mind that Lorox DF is weak on velvetleaf.

FirstRate can be used both preemergence and postemergence in soybeans. It controls most annual broadleaf weeds except eastern black nightshade and only suppression of annual grasses when used preemergence. For annual grass and black nightshade control tank mix FirstRate with either S-metolachlor, Outlook or Warrant.

Prowl, Sonalan HFP and Treflan are dintroaniline herbicides used for the control of annual grasses and most broadleaf weeds except for common ragweed and black nightshade. These are the products referred to as the "yellows". They are basically interchangeable expect Sonalan HFP and Treflan must be applied pre plant incorporated into the soil. These herbicides can be mixed with S-metolachlor for improved annual grass and black nightshade control. For common ragweed control include Dimetric DF in the tank mix. Python WDG is a soil applied

broadleaf herbicide that can also be tank mixed with any of the dinitroaniline soybean herbicides for annual grass and broadleaf weed control.

Pursuit will control many annual grass and broadleaf weeds in soybeans. It is usually tank mixed with either S-metolachlor, Outlook, Prowl or Treflan to broaden control of certain annual weeds. OpTill PRO is a Sharpen plus Pursuit premix with Outlook. OpTill PRO will control many annual grass and broadleaf weeds.

Valor SX or Rowel can be used for preemergence control of annual broadleaf weeds and suppression of annual grasses. For additional grass control include Prowl in the tank mix. For additional broadleaf weed control include one of the following herbicides: Dimetric DF, Lorox, FirstRate or Python WDG.

A well planned, total preemergence herbicide program is the foundation for growing conventional soybeans. While the success of these programs are dependent on sufficient rainfall to move the herbicide into the soil, our spring rainfall patterns are usually adequate to accomplish this. Try to avoid the temptation to skimp on herbicide rates to save money because rescue weed control options are limited. Always read and follow label directions prior to using any herbicide. If you have additional questions feel free to contact me anytime at (315)788-8450 or meh27@cornell.edu.