

Crop Tech Update

Corn weed guide for New England is free download

UNIVERSITY of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering an updated and expanded "New England Guide to Weed Control in Field Corn." It's designed to help conventional and organic field-corn growers decide how best to control weeds. And it includes guidelines for chemical and nonchemical methods.

Developed by John Jemison Jr. of UMaine Extension and Prasanta Bhowmik of the University of Massachusetts, this 20-page guide can be purchased for \$3 by calling 800-287-0274. Or you can download it free from the Web site: www.extension.umaine.edu.

The updated publication discusses commonly used herbicides, timing of applications and alternative controls to



provide a comprehensive approach to controlling weeds in field corn.

"Organic growers will find new information on cultivation practices. Conventional growers will find up-to-date recommendations for herbicides available in the Northeast," says Jemison. Extensive tables on corn herbicides registered for use in New England, herbicide effectiveness on specific weeds and herbicide modes of action are included.

Plan corn refuge before you make a seed purchase

BE sure you plan in biotech-corn refuge acres before you buy your seed corn. That's the gentle reminder from National Corn Growers Association officials.

Developing an Insect Resistance Management plan is a required part of using biotech corn. "The vast majority of corn growers take the appropriate measures and plant refuge acreage to protect the efficacy of this important technology," says Martin Barbre, corn grower and chairman of the NCGA's Biotechnology Working Group. "As the popularity and yield benefits from using these technologies increases, it's more important than ever to follow the refuge requirements."

To prevent or delay resistance de-

velopment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires at least a 20% refuge for current biotech corn-borer and corn-rootworm traits in northern states. Thousands of growers are randomly surveyed about their IRM compliance practices each year by EPA-mandated on-farm assessments and phone surveys. Growers who don't comply can lose access to the technology.

Seed company reps and dealers can help you develop your IRM plan. The NCGA offers the IRM Learning Center, an interactive Web site at www.ncga.com/biotechnology/main/index.asp.



Scotts Co. can't take a 'mulligan'

THE Scotts Co. (fertilizer and grass seed) is chipping up a \$500,000 civil penalty to USDA — the maximum by law. In 2003 field trials in Oregon, the company allegedly failed to follow federal biosecurity standards regarding genetically engineered plants.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service concluded that Scotts failed to ensure that glyphosate-tolerant creeping bentgrass and its offspring wouldn't persist in the environment. Some of the seed was accidentally released.

"USDA takes compliance with its biotechnology regulations very seriously," affirms Bruce Knight, USDA undersecretary. "Compliance is our highest priority, and we'll continue our rigorous oversight of regulated genetically engineered plants."

Non-golfers: Creeping bentgrass is largely used for golf course greens, tees and fairways.



REAP 50% state tax credit on no-till

PENNSYLVANIA farmers purchasing no-till planting equipment may qualify for a 50% state tax credit under the Resource Enhancement and Protection program offered by Pennsylvania's State Conservation Commission.

REAP is designed to encourage use of conservation best-management practices that reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting streams and watersheds. Eligible producers who purchase no-till planting equipment may qualify for the tax credit on up to \$150,000 per ag operation.

The program also offers tax credits ranging from 50% to 75% for other eligible costs, such as best-management practices, including manure storage and treatment systems, intensive grazing systems, and BMPs for barnyard runoff, streambank fencing, and riparian buffers.

Up to \$10 million in credits may be issued in 2007-08, first-come, first-served. Completed applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 2.

Be sure you're eligible. If required for your operation, conservation plans and nutrient management plans must be current.

For REAP details, contact Mary Bender at 717-705-4032 or via e-mail at mabender@state.pa.us. Or visit www.agriculture.state.pa.us, and click on "REAP" under "What's new."

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Dow rolls out three new products

FOR herbicide-tolerant corn and beans, Dow AgroSciences has rolled out a new Technology for Traits portfolio featuring three products for two-pass herbicide-tolerant corn or soybean production. Damon Palmer, product manager, says, "We listened to growers and heard they needed new, more effective weed control tools for today's Roundup Ready crops."

■ **SureStart** is a soil-applied product designed for Roundup Ready corn, delivering consistent, broad-spectrum control of more than 60 grasses and broadleaf weeds. It controls glyphosate-resistant and tolerant weeds for up to six weeks. It also can be applied from preplant to 11-inch-tall corn.

■ **Sonic** can be applied as a preplant or preemergence up to three days after planting. It employs two modes of action for broadleaf control in Roundup Ready soybeans. It provides foundation control of numerous broadleaves, including marestail, lambsquarters, pigweed, waterhemp, common and giant ragweed.

■ **Durango DMA** contains a new third-generation glyphosate salt to boost broad-spectrum control of more than 100 broadleaf weeds and grasses.

For postemergence corn

Syngenta has received a federal label for Halex GT, a new postemergence herbicide for Agrisure GT and Roundup Ready corn hybrids. It offers the convenience of glyphosate plus the added benefit of residual control of tough broadleaves and grasses, including ragweeds, waterhemp, lambsquarters, pigweeds and foxtails.

Powered by mesotrione, Callisto's active ingredient, Halex GT promises to keep fields weed-free until crop canopy, says Gordon Vail, technical brand manager. And he adds, it combines glyphosate and residual control, and consistently outperformed and outyielded one-pass and two-pass glyphosate programs in field trials.