

## Crops

# Preharvest aid do's and don'ts for glyphosate

BY LON TONNESON

**J**OEL Ransom, North Dakota State University Extension agronomist, offers a list of do's and don'ts related to applying glyphosate as a preharvest aid on small grains:

- Do time the application carefully. The optimum time to apply glyphosate preharvest is when the crop has reached physiological maturity. For most varieties of wheat, physiological maturity occurs at a grain moisture content of about 30%. For barley, 20% moisture is the recommended timing. At these moisture contents, the grain will be in the hard dough stage. If you run your thumb nail across the kernel,

### Key Points

- Timing is key for glyphosate as a preharvest aid on small grains.
- Applying it too early will reduce yield and test weight.
- Apply at physiological maturity of 30% moisture, according to label.

the indentation will remain. Since not all kernels arrive at physiological maturity at the same time, be sure to sample multiple kernels to be sure you are not spraying too early.

- Don't apply glyphosate too early. It can reduce yield and test weight, and increase the potential for glyphosate residues to accumulate in the grain. To reduce



**BARLEY DRIES DOWN IN THE SUN:** Applying glyphosate properly as a preharvest aid can speed up the process and kill hard-to-control weeds.

the potential for glyphosate movement into the grain, applying it after all spikes have reached physiological maturity is the recommended practice.

- Don't apply glyphosate to fields that will be used for seed or on barley intended for malt. Glyphosate reduces germination.

- Do plan to wait seven to 10 days for glyphosate to kill the growing parts of the crop. Since glyphosate is a systemic herbicide and moves through the plant, the drydown process is not immediately

visible. The label requires glyphosate to be applied at least seven days before the grain is harvested.

- Do reduce the rate in wheat. Wheat is especially sensitive to glyphosate. Unless there are difficult-to-control weeds present in wheat, a reduced rate of glyphosate will likely be effective.

- Do add methylated seed oil to increase control, especially of grass species.

- Do always read and follow label directions.

## 5 tips to increase soybean yields

BY LON TONNESON

**Y**OU can pull at least five secrets to increasing soybean yields from the 2015 North Dakota soybean production survey.

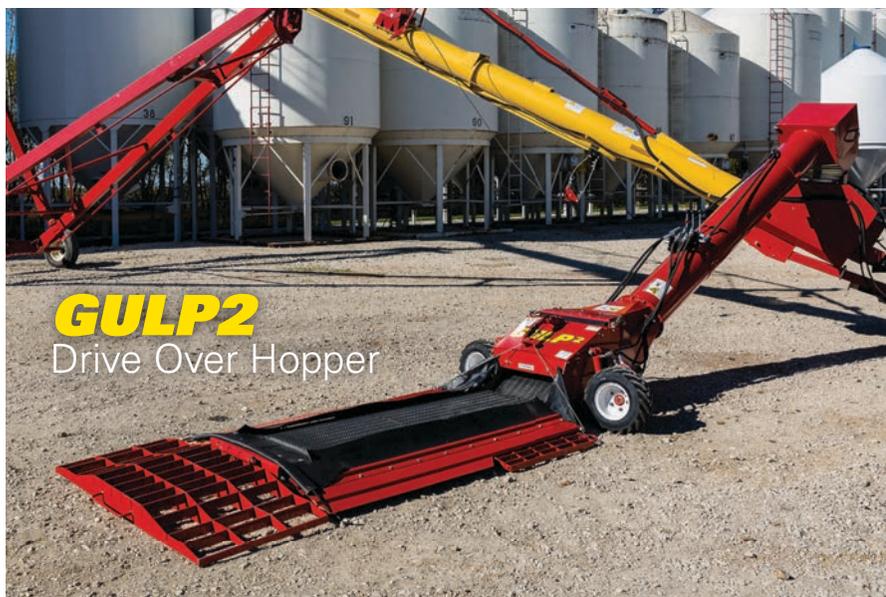
The study, which involved about 200 soybean fields, showed where the highest yields in 2015 came from.

1. Plant before mid-May.
2. Seed 155,000 to 165,000 seeds per acre.
3. Use 15- to 22-inch rows. Soybeans in 30-inch rows had the lowest yields.
4. Treat seed. Eighty percent of the farmers in the survey used seed treatments, and they averaged 36.4 bushels per acre. Twenty percent did not use seed treatments, and they averaged 35.0 bushels per acre.
5. Select chlorosis-resistant varieties for fields with iron deficiency chlorosis.

About 69% of the growers indicated they did not have iron deficiency symptoms in their fields and had an average yield of 37.5 bushels per acre. Approximately 31% of the growers indicated they had some iron deficiency chlorosis in their fields, and on average these fields yielded 34.4 bushels per acre.



**BEST PRACTICES:** A survey of North Dakota soybean growers shows which practices resulted in higher yields.



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