

New Roundup ready for Flex

By CECIL H. YANCY JR.

ROUNDUP WeatherMAX and Roundup Original MAX will feature a starburst on the label next year. The label indicates the popular herbicides have been tested and formulated specifically for Roundup Ready Flex cotton varieties.

"We want to make sure we communicate with growers and everyone in the industry that significant leaf injury might occur when using glyphosate formulations not specifically formulated for Flex varieties," says Jeff Wheeler of Monsanto.

Sarah Vacek, Monsanto's Roundup manager, says Roundup Original Max will be offered at the same price as 2005,

Key Points

- Look for the starburst that indicates new formulation.
- The formulation can be used with Roundup Ready Flex varieties.
- One advantage of Flex is the option to use higher rates.

and WeatherMAX at a similar or lower price than 2005. Both products are backed by Roundup Rewards.

Monsanto discovered in research last summer and confirmed in studies this spring that older versions of Roundup caused leaf injury after the critical fourth-leaf stage in Flex cotton, making the new formulation necessary to address both weed control and crop

safety. "We tested many options across the Cotton Belt amid different weather conditions and feel very confident with these formulations," says Vacek.

Before the recent studies, leaf injury had not been an issue, she says, because over-the-top applications of Roundup were not allowed in Roundup Ready cotton past the four-leaf stage. Flex gives growers the flexibility to apply Roundup past that stage.

"One clear advantage of Roundup Ready Flex is the ability to use higher rates in a single application," Wheeler says. Growers can use up to 32 ounces per season with Roundup Ready WeatherMAX.

The formulations are also equally effective for all other Roundup uses.

Ag looks back on 10 years with biotech

By CECIL H. YANCY JR.

FOR Roy Baxley, early reservations about biotechnology soon gave way to excitement.

The Dillon, S.C., farmer described his mood in the early 1990s as "skeptical, but hopeful." He spoke recently at a press conference sponsored by the Congressional Biotech Caucus on the 10th anniversary of biotechnology.

In the decade that biotech varieties have been available to growers of soybeans, cotton and corn, yield increases have numbered in the billions of pounds while chemical use has declined 46 billion pounds, making a double success with both farmers and consumers.

The industry celebrated the planting of 1 billion acres to biotech crops earlier this year.

Biotechnology allowed farmers to

Key Points

- Ten years of biotechnology have brought success to farmers.
- The future of biotechnology holds further promise for advances.
- More than 1 billion acres were planted to biotech crops.

spray fewer times and get better control of weeds. The cotton industry has learned there are no silver bullets, but combined with the boll weevil eradication and conservation tillage, biotechnology has allowed farmers to advance. Some 80% of cotton acreage in the United States is planted to transgenic varieties.

David Winkle, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau, says biotechnology has had a tremendous effect on production. "Ten years ago, only a small

number of farmers planted biotech seed of soybeans, corn and cotton. For soybeans, it's been a major success story. More than 80% of the U.S. soybean crop is biotech. It's helped us maintain competitiveness. This remarkable technology is here to stay."

U.S. Rep. Marion Berry, D-Ark., a farmer turned politician, says the future of biotechnology in crops also has direct implications in the health field. He recalls a world-class scientist being attracted to come to work at the University of Arkansas because of the high incidence of cancer among rural people in Arkansas. His research led to the discovery of protein in soybeans, rice and poultry to supplement the diet of poor children.

"The acceptance of biotechnology is something that I've enjoyed watching," Berry says.

Ag water use under attack

By MICHAEL DANNA

THREE years ago, Louisiana determined it had a problem with water. That's quite a revelation for a state that, during normal years, receives more than 5 feet of rainfall. It's also a state with the most abundant surface water of any place in the nation.

But Louisiana isn't the only state worrying about water:

■ Union County in Arkansas also draws water from Sparta Aquifer.

■ Officials in DeSoto County have sued the city of Memphis for its use of groundwater they say belongs to north Mississippi residents.

■ Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area has been in negotiations with Louisiana to buy surface water from the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

■ To the east, Alabama, Georgia and Florida have been involved in a dispute over water rights.

Unlike Western farmers, Mid-South growers don't think twice about raising rice or irrigated cotton. "We spend a lot of time trying to get water off of land here in Louisiana," says Kyle McCann, groundwater resource specialist with the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

In the future, that could change.

"This is becoming more and more of a developing issue for agriculture," says Tony Duplechin, director of Groundwater Resources for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

"It is possible that water usage could be metered. Right now we're requiring that nondomestic water users [in the designated areas of concern] report to the Office of Conservation on a monthly basis how much water they're using and for what purpose."

Danna is a writer based in Baton Rouge, La.

YES

Pioneer® brand sorghum hybrids contain a package of agronomic traits designed to help withstand drought, heat, pests and disease while giving you industry-leading yield potential. Find out which hybrid is suited for your growing conditions. Talk to your local Pioneer sales professional or register at www.pioneer.com/growingpoint. Say "Yes" to the hybrids that yield in spite of a hostile growing environment. Take charge with ... *Technology That Yields.*®



Take Charge™

83G66 CRM 72

84G62 CRM 72

83G15 CRM 73



IN JEOPARDY: Farmers in north Louisiana count on the use of water from the Sparta Aquifer to be able to affordably raise animals.