

Ohio Farmer Finds Full-spectrum Weed Control

TOM Ramsey has found the solution to controlling both run-of-the-mill and resistant weeds in his soybean fields. The Clarksburg, Ohio, farmer has been using the LibertyLink® system since 2008 and believes the agronomic need for the system continues to rise.

“We’re seeing the necessity for more use of the LibertyLink system, not less,” says Ramsey. “We have a major problem with Roundup®-resistant marestail because it is also ALS-resistant, so there’s not too much we can put on it that is going to take care of it. We have started to develop some giant and common ragweed-resistant populations in the area as well. Liberty® herbicide has done an excellent job of controlling all the weeds in the spectrum, not just the resistant ones.”

Studies confirm missed weeds are on the rise across Ohio. Glyphosate-resistant weeds were found on 84 million U.S. acres during 2014, up from 61 million acres in 2012, according to the Stratus Ag Research Glyphosate Resistance Tracking study. Those missed weeds create economic losses. University research shows resistant marestail can cut yields up to 22 percent.

“No new herbicide modes of action have been developed since the mid-1980s and the marketplace is not expected to have any new ones in the next 10 years. We need to make



Tom Ramsey, Clarksburg, OH

sure we’re properly stewarding our existing technologies to maintain them for years to come. And why wait for missed weeds to shrink your yield when Liberty is proven to take care of these tough-to-control weeds and is available today?” asks David Tanner, Bayer Product Manager.

Initially, Ramsey was concerned the cost of LibertyLink seed and Liberty herbicide was going to be more expensive than the Roundup Ready® system. But that has not been the case. In the end, the LibertyLink system turned out to cost less than the Roundup Ready system.

“Liberty is the only nonselective postemergence herbicide that still effectively handles grasses and broadleaf weeds including waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, marestail, giant ragweed and kochia,” confirms Arlene Cotie, Bayer Product Development Manager. “Liberty and the LibertyLink system are able to reduce the costliness of missed weeds because the herbicide is fast-acting and kills weeds in days rather than weeks. It contains a different chemistry and a unique Group 10 site of action.”

Ramsey is equally pleased with his

LibertyLink soybean yields. “Over the years, we’ve found the yields have been equal to or better than our Roundup Ready soybeans and just as good as anybody else’s soybean yields in the area,” he says. “The yields are there.”

Bayer CropScience has broadly licensed the LibertyLink trait to combine high-yielding genetics with the powerful, nonselective postemergence weed control of Liberty herbicide. With soybean seed available through nearly 100 seed companies, farmers can manage their weed pressures with LibertyLink varieties that fit their growing conditions.

“LibertyLink is one solution for today’s real-world weed landscape,” says Tanner. “The system provides effective, safe weed control and an opportunity to recapture lost yield potential.”

As for Ramsey, he is “100 percent satisfied.”

“We’ve got nice clean fields in the fall. They’re good, no doubt about it,” he says. “I see no reason to change. It just really works well. And because it works, we’ll continue to use it.”



 Bayer CropScience