

Control weeds conventionally



From the Turnrow

By ERIC PROSTKO

GROWING old(er) does have its plusses. For instance, this year I'm thankful I was trained as a weed scientist before the domination of Roundup Ready technologies.

Though high soybean prices are a welcome change for most growers, this dramatic price increase also caused a shortage of soybean varieties. Some folks who did not book their seed early found themselves in an interesting situation, planting a non-RR (conventional) bean variety. Consequently, many soybean farmers this year are interested in conventional herbicide programs.

You may recall that prior to 1996, farmers did control weeds in soybeans without glyphosate. Because many of

you may be rusty when it comes to this topic, I thought I would review a few of the old standbys.

Residual herbicides that can be used for grass control in conventional soybeans include Treflan, Prowl, Dual Magnum/Generics, Outlook and Intro (the artist formerly known as Lasso). There are a few subtle differences in these herbicides, but generally they all provide good annual grass and small-seeded broadleaf weed control. Treflan and Prowl are more effective on Texas



RESIDUAL CONTROL: This is how a soybean plot looks when it is not treated with a residual.

millet (buffalograss) than the others. Residual herbicides that can be used for broadleaf weed control in soybeans include such products as Boundary (Sencor+Dual Magnum), Canopy (Sencor+Classic), Prefix (Reflex+Dual Magnum), Pursuit, Scepter, Sencor and Valor. You may recall that some soybean varieties are not tolerant of Sencor, so pay close attention to this herbicide label, rates and soil type. At this point, it is probably a good idea to remind you that optimum Palmer amaranth (pigweed) control programs can only be obtained using a residual herbicide. (See photo above.)

Grass weeds that escape residual herbicides can be controlled with a timely postemergence application of a herbicide such as Arrow/Select, Assure/Targa, Poast and Fusilade.

Broadleaf weeds that escape residual herbicides can be controlled with a timely postemergence application of either Basagran, Classic, Cobra, FirstRate, Pursuit, Reflex or Ultra Blazer. Back in the day, it was not uncommon for growers to mix 2 ounces per acre of 2,4-DB with one of these herbicides for better control of annual morningglory.

At this point, I am sure I have made at least one chemical company angry because I did not mention its product. Therefore, I would encourage all of my readers to obtain a copy of their local Extension recommendations for a more thorough listing of products and expected performance.

Georgia growers can access 2008 soybean weed control recommendations at www.ent.uga.edu/pmh.

It is without question that RR soybeans make weed control more convenient and a tad bit easier. If you chose to or were forced into a situation where you had to plant a conventional soybean variety, fear not. You should be able to control most weeds with a combination of the products listed above or the many others labeled for soybeans.

If residual herbicides are moisture activated and postemergence herbicides are applied to small weeds, you can be successful!

As always, good weed hunting!
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