

Roundup Ready® Corn 2 System Offers Midwest Growers Flexibility, Excellent Crop Safety

John Small planted Roundup Ready® Corn 2 on about 85 percent of his 1,500 corn acres this season, and he says the technology is providing his farming operation in Ladoga, Ind., with “tremendous results.”

Small, who farms with his parents, Harold and Nora Small, and his wife, Kim, began planting Roundup Ready Corn 2 technology three years ago. “I had talked to some other guys who had used it and liked the idea that if I had a late-season flush of weeds, I could go back and spray without any crop injury,” he explains.

The application flexibility of the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System paid off this season, when the central Indiana farmer had to contend with a wet, cool spring. “Our corn was set back with several rain events, which delayed us a little in spraying in a timely manner,” he notes. But Small says the wider application window of the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System enabled him to delay spraying without worrying about crop safety.

“That’s the beauty of the whole program,” he says. “We don’t have to consider crop safety because the corn shows no apparent signs of injury after spraying. The corn stays green, and there is no setback.”

In contrast, Small says he has experienced crop stress with conventional herbicide programs. “I’d see some dings caused by one herbicide product or another,” he recalls. “Maybe some yellowing or burn-back of leaf tips or some stunting. Anytime you slow the corn plant down and give it stress, I’m sure it has an effect on yield.”

Small’s herbicide regimen includes using a residual at planting, followed by a post application of Roundup WeatherMAX®. The Roundup Ready Corn 2 System, he says, provides “100 percent weed control” in managing his major weed challenge, giant ragweed.

With his conventional corn, he couldn’t always count on consistent weed control. “We were having some issues with escapes and the timeliness of applications,” he says. “The big issue was if we ran into a wet spell, we had real trouble spraying in a timely manner.”

For example, Small says this spring “We had horseweeds coming up ranging knee- to waist-high. With Roundup® (agricultural herbicides), we have the ability to go out and kill those tall horseweeds, and there is no way we could have done that with our conventional herbicide program.”

Small has also seen good yield results with the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System. Last season, he planted Roundup Ready Corn 2 stacked with YieldGard® Corn Borer or YieldGard Rootworm and experienced a 25- to 30-bushel yield advantage over his conventional corn hybrids. This year, the Indiana farmer is testing a triple-stack combination of Roundup Ready Corn 2 with YieldGard Plus Corn, which provides in-plant protection against corn rootworms and corn borers in a single seed.

Effective Performance Across the Corn Belt

One hundred percent of Rick Fieber’s corn is planted to the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System. He feels that this weed-control system is superior to any other herbicide program he has used to date, and he also feels that this technology has appreciably boosted both grain and silage yields.

“We’ve had noticeable yield increases for about the last five years running, which roughly correlates to the time we began using the Roundup Ready technology,” says Fieber, who operates a dairy farm near Watertown, S.D. “Our fields are a lot cleaner, the grain yields are up and we’re getting a lot more whole corn in our silage.”



Central Indiana farmer John Small says the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System provides “tremendous results” for his farming operation.

In his second season of growing Roundup Ready Corn 2, Churdan, Iowa, farmer Brian Riedesel is thankful for the convenience the corn technology offers him. Of his 320 corn acres, Roundup Ready Corn 2 is planted on more than two-thirds, much of it in DEKALB® hybrids.

“What sold me on it was the convenience of having a bigger window for spraying,” says Riedesel. He adds that the technology works especially well for him across all his crops because he also grows Roundup Ready Soybeans.

Economically speaking, Riedesel has found a financial advantage to using the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System. “Even with the tech fee, I save about five to seven dollars an acre compared to conventional corn.”

In 2006, Jim Minor planted Roundup Ready Corn 2 on his bottomland fields near Circleville, Ohio. He has planted this corn technology off and on for several years and has been pleased with the performance and level of weed control provided by the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System.

“We have quite a bit of pressure from bur cucumber and giant ragweed on this land,” Minor explains. “We also have some sunflowers in one field and a good bit of lambsquarters. Overall, our weed pressure is pretty heavy.”

One aspect of the Roundup Ready Corn 2 System that Minor really likes is crop safety. “It is so nice not to have to deal with herbicide injury to the corn,” he says. “There’s no doubt in my mind that the crop injury you sometimes get with other herbicides can have an adverse effect on yields.”

Southeast Minnesota farmer Steve Carlson decided to first try Roundup Ready Corn technology about four years ago. He had rented a farm with old hayfields and faced a quackgrass problem he knew would be tough to control.

Roundup agricultural herbicides kept his fields clean, and today Carlson plants Roundup Ready Corn 2 on about two-thirds of his corn acres. He also grows Roundup Ready Soybeans on his farming operation, Carlson Farms, which is located in Welch, Minn.

“We get great weed control, and using a residual helps us control that first flush of weeds,” he notes. “Our fields are clean.”

The Roundup Ready Corn 2 System was planted on approximately 35 million acres in 2006, over 40 percent of all corn planted in the United States, making it the leading weed-control program in U.S. agriculture.