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Morningglory Control in Roundup Ready/Glyphosate Tolerant Corn

It is common knowledge that morningglories are tough to control with many postemergence herbicides, including glyphosate. Morningglory control in corn appears to have become more problematic over the last couple of years due to reduced use of soil residual herbicides and the fact that it is a weed that emerges relatively late in the spring after soil residual herbicides have dissipated. Atrazine provides effective control of morningglories as a pre or postemergence herbicide. As adoption of Roundup Ready/Glyphosate Tolerant corn increases, it appears that growers have reduced reliance on soil applied atrazine premix herbicides.



Ivyleaf morningglory. Photo source: M. Ross

The best options for controlling morningglories postemergence in corn will depend on the following factors: 1) corn size/growth stage, 2) morningglory size, 3) whether or not glyphosate is needed as a tankmix partner.

If glyphosate is needed as a tankmix partner for other weeds, corn is 12 inches or less in height and morningglories are small (runners less than 4 inches), tank mix atrazine at 0.75 to 1.25 lb ai/A and increase glyphosate rate to 1.125 lb ae/A. This treatment will also provide some residual activity for later emerging flushes of morningglory. Another approach for this scenario would be to use dicamba, Distinct or Status with glyphosate. However, the use of atrazine will result in more residual control of the morningglories

If glyphosate is needed as a tankmix partner for other weeds and corn is more than 12 inches tall, the best option would be to use Distinct or Status tankmixed with glyphosate. The maximum labeled rate of Distinct is 4 oz/A on

10 to 24 inch tall corn. The most common use rate in a tankmix with glyphosate is 2 to 3 oz/A. Status can be used at rates of 2.5 to 10 oz/A on corn up to 36 inches tall (V10). The most common rate used in a tankmix with glyphosate is 5 oz/A.

If glyphosate is not needed as a tankmix partner and corn is more than 12 inches tall, consider the use of bromoxynil. It can be used up until tassel emergence at rates of 1 to 1.5 pt/A. Since bromoxynil is a contact herbicide, effective coverage is important, so apply in at least 10 GPA carrier volume and use flat fan spray nozzles with 30 psi of pressure at the spray boom.