The Benefits of Preemergence Herbicides in Roundup Ready Soybean

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When Do Weeds Start To Reduce Soybean Yield?

• Weed-crop competition reduces soybean yield if weeds are not controlled early.

• To maximize soybean yield, apply postemergence (POST) glyphosate when weeds are no more than 6 inches tall.

• In this example, weeds emerged with soybeans. Applying glyphosate when weeds were 9 or 12 inches tall resulted in 6 or 10% yield loss due to weed competition prior to control.

PRE herbicides add flexibility to the POST application window

• PRE herbicides reduce early-season weed density and slow weed growth, which results in more flexibility in POST application timing.

• Smaller weeds are less competitive and easier to control!

PRE herbicides can maximize Roundup Ready soybean yields

• PRE herbicides reduce early-season weed competition and improve control of tough weeds such as lambsquarters, waterhemp, and giant ragweed.

• PRE herbicides protect yield when weather or workload delays POST applications.

• In this example, use of PRE herbicides prior to POST glyphosate increased yield by 4 to 9 bushels/A, compared to POST glyphosate alone.

Data from two studies conducted in west central OH in 2000-01.

Use residual herbicides to maximize Roundup Ready soybean yield!

Data from two studies conducted in west central OH in 2002-03. Weeds were less than 6 inches tall at the time of POST glyphosate applications, with the exception of giant ragweed which was up to 10 inches tall in 2003.
PRE herbicides improve control of tough weeds

Lambsquarters

- Control with POST glyphosate can be affected by weed size, age, environmental conditions, and inherent sensitivity of the lambsquarters population.
- Lambsquarters is easily controlled by many PRE soybean herbicides.
- The example at right is from field research with lambsquarters populations with reduced sensitivity to glyphosate. POST glyphosate did not adequately control lambsquarters (>90% control), except where PRE herbicides were applied.

Giant ragweed

- Grows extremely fast, very competitive with soybean, and emerges well into the season.
- It is nearly impossible to time one POST glyphosate application to get season-long control and avoid early-season weed competition.
- In the example at right, use of PRE herbicide in combination with one POST glyphosate application resulted in control and yield comparable to two POST glyphosate applications in 2002, 2004-05.
- In 2003, PRE herbicide followed by one POST application was much more effective than one POST application of glyphosate (glyphosate was applied POST only once in 2003).

The economics of PRE herbicides in no-till Roundup Ready Soybean

Tough and late-emerging weeds such as giant ragweed, waterhemp, and morningglory usually require two POST glyphosate applications or a combination of PRE herbicide followed by one POST glyphosate application. A late POST application (weeds greater than 6 to 8 inches tall) of glyphosate can result in yield loss of approximately 10%, or 4 to 6 bushels/A, and a loss in income of $48 to $72 per acre (assumes $12/bushel soybeans). PRE herbicides protect against yield loss from early-season weed competition, potentially improving net return by $36 to $60/A after cost of PRE herbicide ($12/A)

If the cost of a second POST glyphosate application is $10 and the cost of the PRE herbicide is $8 to $12, the cost of a PRE is about the same as the cost of a second POST glyphosate application. There is essentially no additional application cost for PRE herbicide use in no-till, since most fields are already treated with preplant burndown herbicides, and the PRE reduces the need for a second POST glyphosate application.

Bottom line - You can’t afford not to use PRE herbicides!