



Agronomy Notes

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Cotton boll set

With recent rains, cotton can set bolls quickly during bloom (usually July and August). Bolls normally set during stress free periods. Most stress is from dry weather but insects and disease can also be a problem. With good moisture going into early bloom the majority of the cotton yield can be set during the first 3 weeks of bloom. It is important that insects and other pests are controlled during this period so that the early bolls are set early making for an early harvest since we are going into an El Nino weather phase which can mean a wet harvest season and fewer days to harvest.

Soybeans planted after corn harvest

With soybean prices remaining at near record highs many corn growers are considering planting soybeans as soon as harvest is finished. Soybeans can yield 20-40 bu/A under good conditions but should be planted as early as possible with the cutoff date being the first week of August with later plantings usually yielding less due to maturing under cooler conditions. Beans can be drilled with 2-4 seed per foot of row or planted in wide rows with 8-9 seed per foot of row. Additional K may be needed on very sandy soils along with S and minor elements. Always inoculate soybean seed if it has been more than two years since soybeans were in the field.

Forages

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Summer Precautions for Legume seeding in the Fall

Legume planting either on prepared seedbed or sodseeding has several advantages. Legumes if in association with grasses are usually used to i) increase yield per acre, ii) to improve the quality of the forage on offer, iii) to fix nitrogen into the soil, or iv) to improve the seasonal distribution of a pasture. Adding clovers or cool-season grasses allows quality feed during winter and early spring when pastures would then be dormant and without active growth.

If planting legumes in the fall a couple of precautions need to be taken in the summer. One of them is to check the soil pH and apply lime if needed to raise the pH. Many legumes will require pH around 6.0. This slightly higher pH is needed for the rhizobium bacteria, involved in N fixation, to survive. Liming should be done a few months in advance. The first step is to properly collect a soil sample from the area to be limed. Samples are normally taken to a depth of 4–6 inches. The soil sample should be sent to a soil testing laboratory for determination of pH and lime requirements. If lime is needed it should be applied as soon possible since lime reacts with soil that it comes in contact but the effect on the soil pH below the top inch or so requires longer time of interaction. Therefore, lime should be applied 3–6 months prior to planting .

A second precaution if controlling weeds in the summer is to use herbicides with no residual activity. Many herbicides will have residual activity in the soil that will persist for several months and keep your legume seed from germinating. Please check with your weed specialist for herbicide use in the summer that will not affect your legume (broadleaf) germination in the fall.

Gramoxone SL compatibility

We have recently been observing unusual problems associated with the Gramoxone SL formulation. We are seeing a black oily residue in the tank as well as some herbicide incompatibility. The full explanation for this is not yet available, but we have learned a few things.

Black slime. The black slimy material in the tank usually occurs when Gramoxone SL is mixed with an 80:20 surfactant. It is believed that the glycol in the surfactant is coming out of solution and is turning black due to the dye in the Gramoxone SL formulation. This material is clogging strainers and sticking to the inside of the spray tank. Cleaning these clogged strainers has been difficult. Ammonia nor acid will remove the slime. About all we have found that works is to remove the strainers and wash them with alcohol. If the slime dries inside the tank, I am not sure if it can be removed. However, this black material is not being observed when mixing with surfactants containing 90% active ingredient (or higher).

Compatibility. Others are seeing problems with mixing Gramoxone SL and Reflex. It is believed that these herbicides can be mixed without issue if a compatibility agent is added to the tank prior to loading the herbicides. Other herbicides have also been implicated with non-compatibility when mixed with Gramoxone SL, but at this point it is difficult to determine which are actually problematic.

There have also been reports of herbicide injury that mimics paraquat burn occurring weeks after Gramoxone SL was applied – particularly when spraying clethodim and crop oil. To date, we have not been able to determine why this is occurring. However, we do recommend that clethodim be applied with a maximum of 1 pt of crop oil per acre and that ammonium sulfate be kept to less than 8 lb per 100 gal. These reduced crop oil and ammonium sulfate rates will not reduce the grass control that you can expect from clethodim.

If you observe any Gramoxone SL mixing issues, call your local County Extension Office so we can better understand all the cause of these problems.



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Atrazine litigation settlement

Syngenta has reached an agreement in principle to settle the lawsuits filed by community water systems in Illinois state and federal courts. The settlement agreement was filed with the federal court in Illinois May 24. It is expected that the pending state litigation in Illinois will be stayed pending final approval of the settlement by the federal court.

The settlement is considered material to the company, and until it is filed with the Court, the existence of the agreement and its terms are strictly confidential. As soon as the proposed settlement is filed with the Court, Syngenta and the plaintiffs' attorneys will issue a joint news release using language negotiated as part of the agreement.

Syngenta acknowledges no liability. And, despite almost eight years of litigation, the water systems involved were never able to come up with any new scientific studies relating to the safety of atrazine. Under the terms of the agreement, a total of \$105 million, less the costs of notice and administrative expenses of the settlement and plaintiffs' counsel's fees, will be paid to the participating water systems according to an allocation formula approved by the Court as part of the Settlement Agreement. The minimum payment to water systems that are eligible to participate will be \$5,000.

For a period of 10 years after final Court approval (including any appeals) of the settlement or July 1, 2014, whichever is earlier, Syngenta, its subsidiaries, customers, partners, retailers, distributors and related entities will be released by the water systems from liability related to the presence of atrazine in their water, except for point-source contamination. Applicators and users may still be liable to community water systems during this time for any damages caused by off-label use.

Water systems will have approximately 90 days from the time the Court grants preliminary approval to object or opt out of the settlement. A fairness hearing to grant final approval of the settlement is expected approximately 60 days after the time for objecting or opting out closes. In addition to the water systems named in the litigation, any community water system that has ever detected any level of atrazine in its water is eligible to join the class of plaintiffs that will share in the settlement. Systems that have never detected atrazine in their water may also test during the approximately 90-day notice period, following preliminary approval of the settlement by the Court. Under the terms of the agreement, if more than 10 percent (by claim value, as a proportion of the fund) of eligible water systems with claims arising within 10 years preceding the date of the Settlement Agreement opt out of the settlement, Syngenta has the option of terminating the settlement.

Upcoming IFAS CEU Day on August 21

Dear Colleagues: a statewide Polycom event to earn up to 6 pesticide applicator CEUs is planned for Tuesday, August 21 (9:00 a.m. EDT - 4:00 p.m. EDT).

Please contact Dr. Fishel for additional information.

Rice herbicides for the Everglades Agricultural Area

Stam 4E (propanil) in combination with Sandea/Profine (halosulfuron), Basagran (bentazon), or Londax (bensulfuron) have been the foundation of postemergence herbicide weed control programs in drill-seeded rice in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Other herbicides including Clincher (cyhalofop), Grasp (penoxsulam), Grasp Xtra (cyhalofop plus triclopyr), and RebelEX (penoxsulam plus cyhalofop) registered for use in Florida can be integrated into weed control programs in the EAA.

Clincher is a postemergence herbicide for control of a wide spectrum of annual and seedling perennial grasses, such as barnyardgrass, fall panicum and junglerice. It offers wide application window (from early pre-flood to late post-flood), no rotational restrictions, excellent crop safety, and flexible application timing. Clincher can be applied up to 4-leaf rice to post-flood at 13.5 to 15 fluid ounces/acre plus 1 quart/acre of crop oil concentrate by ground or air.

Grasp is a low-use-rate herbicide for control of barnyardgrass, many broadleaf and annual sedge weeds. Important benefits of Clincher include excellent pre-flood weed control, up to 3 weeks residual weed control under moist conditions, wider application window (emergence to 60 days before harvest), and crop rotation flexibility. Grasp can be applied at 2 fluid ounces/acre plus 1 quart/acre crop oil concentrate from rice emergence to 60 days prior to harvest by ground or air.

Grasp Xtra and RebelEX herbicides deliver broad-spectrum control targeting grasses, broadleaf and annual sedge weeds. Grasp Xtra can be applied to rice from 2- to 3-leaf to half-inch internode elongation stage of rice at 16 to 22 fluid ounces/acre depending on weed and the stage of weed development by ground or air. RebelEX can be applied at 16 to 20 fluid ounces/acre to drill-seeded rice at emergence to 60 days before harvest by ground or air. These herbicides provide rice growers in the EAA with additional modes of action to control problematic weeds such as barnyardgrass, fall panicum, sprangletop, and annual sedges.

Calendar of Events

To follow the link, press “Ctrl” and put cursor over link, and “click.”

- July 21** Perennial Peanut Producers Field Day, Beef Research Unit, Gainesville, FL
<http://perennialpeanutfieldday2012.eventbrite.com/>
- July 27-29** Florida Small Farms Conference, Kissimmee, FL
<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- Oct 16-18** Sunbelt Ag Expo, Moultrie, GA
<http://sunbeltexpo.com/>
- Oct 21-24** American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
<https://www.acsmeetings.org/>