

Danville Co-op Agronomy Newsletter, April 2010

Pre-emerge herbicides are your best protection of yield potential early in the growing season. Pre-emerge chemicals are applied directly after planting, but before the plant emerges from the soil. These products normally contain residual components that prevent problem weeds from competing with the crop for nutrients, moisture and sunlight.

In the case of crabgrass control, it is essential that we use a preventative product. Crabgrass germinates shallow in the root zone. Once the soil temperatures rise above 55 degrees, the first bit of moisture we receive will bring the first flush of crabgrass. With a pre-emerge product on as a barrier, the crabgrass takes the chemical in through the roots and shoots and dies before it emerges from the ground. Other annual grasses are affected the same way. If broadleaf control products are added to the grass control chemical, we also get control of broadleaf weeds. It depends on the crop we are growing as to what broadleaf control chemical we choose, however the grasses are mostly controlled by the same barrier mode of action.

For corn, milo and forage, the pre-emerge products that are labeled for dual purpose control would be products such as Bicep and Bicep Lite, Bullet, Gaurdsman and others. Soybean pre-emerge products would include Treflan, Classic, Prefix (dual control) and others. It is possible to tank mix combinations of pre-emerge chemicals to match control of specific species of problem weeds. The possibilities are almost endless. With different weeds becoming resistant to some or combinations of chemicals, adding in different "modes of action" is a good practice. Some of this information can become confusing. Your best source of information is your Co-op Agronomy Center. Let us help you with your pre-emerge chemical choices.

Keep in mind, we have soybean, sorghum and forage seed. Thanks for your business!