

Danville Co-op Agronomy Newsletter – May 2010

Pre-emerge chemistry for sorghum and soybeans can make a difference in your weed control scheme as well as your over-all yield. Controlling crabgrass, foxtail and broadleaf summer weeds, even in glyphosate tolerant crops, is difficult unless you first apply a residual pre-emerge chemical. This chemistry is designed to be applied directly after planting as a barrier control that is soil active. The chemical barrier is on the soil surface so that when we have a rain event (that normally brings the annual weeds up), the germinating seedling takes up the chemical and dies right away, sometimes before it even emerges. Also in the chemical's design is its ability to hold weeds down until crop canopy is accomplished, at which time you can decide if you will need a "clean up" post-emerge application. Keep in mind however, that you must scout your crop for weeds throughout the growing season for weed control because weeds that are developing deep root systems are robbing your crop of moisture and nutrients. Also, weeds that are more developed are harder and more expensive to kill.

The pre-emerge chemicals that your co-op has selected to stock in bulk are: Bicep II Lite Magnum (for grain sorghum and forages) and Prefix (for soybeans). Bicep II Lite Mag is a premix of Dual (as a grass control) and atrazine (as a broadleaf control). The atrazine is "lite" because it only has 1 lb. of active product for a use rate of 1.5 qt. /acre. For those producers that want to limit the atrazine content so they can crop back to wheat, this is the product of choice. However, those that want extra pigweed control may elect to add a little more atrazine. Prefix is a "sister" product for pre-emerge soybeans. The active grass control product is Dual, and the active broadleaf control is fomesin, for a use rate @ 1 qt. /acre. Prefix is designed as a nice pre-emerge weed control followed by an application of Touchdown Total as a "clean-up" measure before canopy closure. If your weed pressure is apt to be intensive, this chemistry may prevent having to spray glyphosate 4-5 times to keep out the pigweeds and crabgrass.

Keep us in mind when it comes to double-crop soybean seed! We should have a good supply of seed to suit your needs. We have an equitable price on a 4.4 maturity Dynagro variety that will do well in this area. We can inoculate and deliver the soybeans too! Please let Ron know your needs and he will be glad to get you what you want. Forage seed may be a little tight. Most varieties are in good supply, but the less common varieties such as the Photoperiod Sensitive, Male Sterile and Brachytic Dwarf sorghums need to be ordered. Concep treatments also need to be spoken for because we are limited as to how much we can return.

In previous newsletters, we alluded to the precision program that we are developing for our valued patrons. This program is coming to fruition. One of the limiting factors in crop production in this area is soil pH. The biggest cost-advantage to precision agriculture is in the way we lime and correct our soil pH. Soil pH affects everything that happens in the soil, from the uptake of moisture and nutrients to the health of our soil "bugs". If we can apply corrective soil amendments to the right place and in the correct amount on a field, then we can realize a dynamic increase in production. In most cases, because we are correcting the right place in the right amount, we can also reduce the cost of that correction. Not only that, but the information that we gather in the precision process, gives us the nutrient recommendations to save money on fertilizer placement. So, it's a win-win program that shouldn't be overlooked. If you are considering liming your ground, it would be in your best interest to talk to your Co-op agronomist about our program.

As always, we appreciate your business. There wouldn't be a need for us if it wasn't for seeing to your needs.

We thank you!