

Here's how to tank-mix two or three herbicides

LANCASTER — Farmers are now tank mixing more and more pesticides to control a broader spectrum of weeds, insects, and diseases, and to improve application efficiency.

With fuel in short supply these days, tank mixes are becoming more popular.

Farmers can save time, money, labor and fuel by simply mixing compatible pesticides and making one application. Some farmers like to go one step further by applying pesticides in a mixture with liquid fertilizer.

New EPA registrations for 1980 clearing three-way herbicide tank mixes, such as Sutan+/Bladex/atrazine combination for corn, will require farmers to be more careful when tank mixing, says Stauffer Chemical's Dave Martin.

"If pesticides are not tank mixed properly," Martin says, "clogged tanks and lines, and uneven, deficient or excessive rates of application may result.

"This can cause crop injury, poor pest control and residue problems, in addition to the expense and disposal involved with mixtures that can't be used. It's essential for growers to follow pesticide label instructions closely."

Martin offers farmers the following tank mixing tips and reminders:

Do a small scale "jar" test to check compatibility. Place one pint of carrier-water or fluid fertilizer in a quart jar.

Add each pesticide or a pre-mix of pesticide in water, one at a time, and shake well with each addition. Use each product in the same proportion to carrier as it will be in the actual tank mix.

Unless labels indicate otherwise, add pesticides in this order: wettable powders first, followed by flowables, water solubles, surfactants and emulsifiable concentrates.

Invert the jar 10 times, then inspect the mixture immediately and after standing quietly for 30 minutes.

If a uniform mix cannot be made or if nondispersable oil, sludge or clumps of solids form, the mixture is incompatible and should not be used.

Minor separation after 30 minutes, without sludge or clumps and which remixes readily with 10 jar inversions, is tolerable if field spray tank agitation is good and keeps the combination mixed.

Adding a spray adjuvant in testing compatibility of mixes can avoid many problems. An adjuvant helps keep the mixture emulsified. Several of those available are Compex, Sponto 168D, Uni-Mix and Unite.

When tank mixing in volume, put two-thirds of the carrier in the tank first. Then add pesticides one by one, with wettable powders first.

Agitate for thorough mixing after each addition, before pouring in the next. Finish filling the tank with carrier.

Keeping agitation going at all times on the way to the field, during application and during stops for any reason. Empty the tank preferably on the day of mixing. Do not

allow the mixture to stand overnight without agitation.

Check labels for temperature and humidity data as they affect mixing or delay in use.

With any new combination, test the tank mixture on small areas, at varying rates and conditions of use before large scale use.

Check your extension agent for test data and on variations in local water supply that may affect performance.

Use exact dosage rates for registered tank mixes. Changes may cause crop injury or poor performance on weeds or pests.

Farm Show director happy with crowds

HARRISBURG — For anyone attending the Farm Show's open and junior shows held in the large arena, a noticeable improvement on crowd control was evident this year.

Hugh Coffman, Farm Show director, attributes some of the improvement to a new security firm hired for the Farm Show events this year. The firm is Industrial and Business Security of Harrisburg.

He also gave credit to the State Police and Captain Eyerly, who had the over all responsibility to see that things went smoothly at this year's show.

"Even I helped to patrol the large arena at times," noted Coffman, who said he pledged to make the Farm Show's large arena a safe place for specators and exhibitors alike.

He noted that the security guards roped off the upper

sections of the main arena so that trouble makers couldn't get lost so easily.

But most of the credit for a safe and successful Farm Show Coffman gave to the exhibitors and spectators themselves.

"Everyone seemed to be cooperating," he said. "I want to thank them all for understanding."

He also pointed out there were no problems with the blocking chutes that were permitted inside the beef barns at the last minute before the show began.

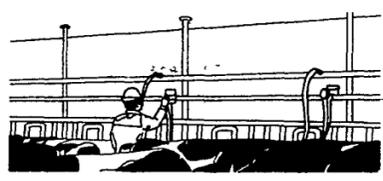
"We were very pleased with the way the chutes turned out — there were no significant problems," Coffman noted.

Concerning the possibilities of charging admission to next year's show, Coffman stated that it is an idea that has been kicked around for a number of years, and was abandoned because it didn't get much support.

"It's a matter of logistics for implementation," he said. "We would certainly sample a lot of people's feelings before we went ahead with the idea."

"I feel we have to keep in mind that this is the Farm Show and we are here to promote Pennsylvania agriculture," he concluded.

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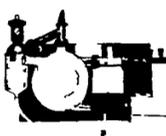


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