

How to handle those weed-and-feed programs

LANCASTER — Stormy economic weather is causing more and more farmers to seek shelter in fuel, labor, and time saving weed-and-feed programs

The newest and fastest-growing such option, impregnation of herbicides on dry bulk fertilizer, entails the dealer spraying (impregnating) select herbicides on a batch of dry fertilizer as it tumbles

Then the fertilizer/herbicide mixture is spread just as untreated fertilizer would be, saving an application pass. Both compounds subsequently are incorporated in a single tillage pass.

Careful fertilizer/herbicide combination and field application are crucial to consistent impregnated control of common problem weeds like foxtail, fall panicum, and velvet leaf

"We recommend a minimum dry fertilizer rate of 200 pounds per acre to assure all herbicide is uniformly absorbed during impregnation and subsequently applied," says Doug Cates, Stauffer's head of market development. "The maximum per-acre rate that can be impregnated uniformly with most herbicides is 400 to 450 pounds"

A powdered drying agent such as Microcel E helps condition the mixture and is especially useful when applying amounts near the 200-pound minimum.

"The herbicide/fertilizer mixture should be applied promptly after impregnation by either the dealer or grower," Cates says. "But if bad weather interrupts application, the impregnated fertilizer should be tightly covered until it can be spread"

He points out that consistent weed control depends on proper

herbicide/fertilizer application — which requires double-spreading. Further, impregnated fertilizers applied at rates above 400 pounds per acre must be double-spread to assure proper distribution.

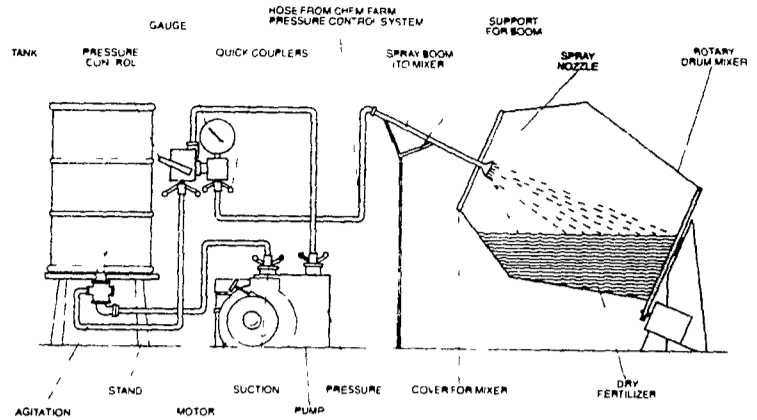
To compensate for the half-swath at the field's perimeter which receives only half of the herbicide/fertilizer rate, Stauffer recommends making an extra pass around that perimeter with the spreader fan speed, gate opening and travel speed reduced to half the setting normally used.

"Pre-plant incorporated herbicides are well suited to impregnation because the incorporation process assures proper distribution of PPI chemicals at

normal rates," Cates says. "On the other hand, though, distribution of pre-emerge herbicides impregnated on fertilizer (and not incorporated depends totally on the uniformity of the spreader pattern and higher herbicide rates would be required, so they aren't labeled for impregnation"

In corn, Stauffer's Eradicane, Eradicane/Bladex, Eradicane/atrazine, Sutan+, Sutan+/Bladex and Sutan+/atrazine (all PPI) are registered for impregnation on many dry fertilizers.

As PPI treatments only, Dual and combinations recently have



More and more dealers and custom applicators are installing units like this one to impregnate dry fertilizer with herbicides.

Cherry growers to vote on market checkoff

BIGLERVILLE — Red tart cherry growers in eight states will vote March 22-31 on whether to continue the federal marketing order regulating the handling of their crop, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said.

Tart cherry growers and processors in Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, and Wisconsin, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland who produced cherries for market in canned, frozen, or other processed form from May 1 to Dec 31, 1980, are eligible to vote in the USDA referendum, said William J. Doyle, produce marketing official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Doyle said the marketing order would continue unless more than

half the growers or handlers who vote want it ended.

A provision of the marketing order calls for a referendum to be held every five years as a means of determining whether growers and handlers want to continue the program," Doyle said.

Ballots and voting instructions will be mailed by the Agricultural Marketing Service to all eligible cherry growers and handlers by March 22. Any eligible voter who does not receive one should contact Raymond C. Martin III, AMS, rm. 2532-S., USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250; phone 202/447-5157; or Delbert D. Rasmussen, Cherry Administrative Board, P.O. Box 187, Watervliet, Mich., 49098; phone (616) 463-3175

received a label

For soybeans, Treflan, Tolban and Vernam are registered for the same process (again, all PPI)

Both Eptam and Balan are registered for impregnation for alfalfa seedling establishment.

Eptam's latest registration includes all other crops under its existing label: potatoes, sugarbeets, dry beans and sunflowers. And manufacturers of these herbicides advise incorporating herbicide-impregnated fertilizer just as growers incorporate liquid PPI herbicide

He recommends incorporating Sutan+, Eradicane, Eptam and Vernam two to three inches deep. Discs and field cultivators should be set to cut four to six inches deep and operated at five to seven miles per hour.

The field cultivator should also be equipped with five to seven-inch sweeps. Sutan+ may be adequately incorporated in one trip over the field. A second incorporation pass

at an angle to and no deeper than the first is recommended for Eradicane, Eptam, and Vernam treated fields

Most power-driven rotary tillers will also incorporate herbicides effectively if manufacturer's instructions for operating depth and speed are followed carefully.

Some conservation-tillage corn belt growers have found that incorporating impregnated fertilizer works well on ground where surface debris is left over winter.

Applied over the debris, the impregnated fertilizer granules roll into crevices. When the farmer makes his reduced-tillage passes incorporating both debris and fertilizer, the granules are evenly distributed, resulting in more consistent weed control

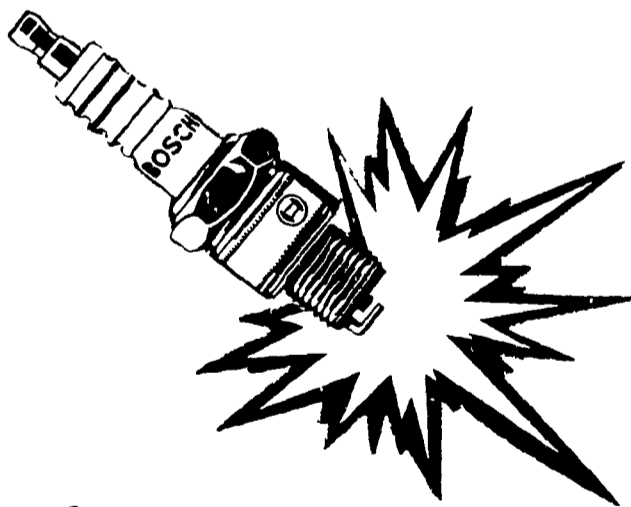
Properly combined, spread, and incorporated, PPI herbicides impregnated on dry bulk fertilizer provide the same consistent weed control as the liquid PPI formulations," Cates adds

Bombergers

BOSCH SPARK PLUGS

FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE

Visit Our
Lawn & Garden
Department or
have your equipment serviced
before March 28 and receive a "FREE" Bosch
Plug for your mower, rider, saw or trimmer.



List price!
\$1.80

LIMIT
ONE PER
CUSTOMER!



Our Lawn & Garden Department is now fully stocked for your Spring Clean-up & Gardening Chores...featuring Tools and Spray Materials for your every need.

Monday Thursday Friday 11-9:30 • Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 11-6:00