

# Always match soil type and weeds with herbicides

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind — The combination of adverse weather conditions last spring and the 1983 Payment-In-Kind (PIK) program caused some of the heaviest weed pressure farmers have seen in decades. So it's important to match an effective weed control plan to expected weed pressure, notes a leading Midwestern weed control researcher.

"Too many growers waste money because they mismatch their soil type, weed problems and herbicides," says University of Wisconsin weed control specialist, Ronald Doersch.

To avoid mismatching herbicide programs to weed problems, Doersch suggests growers follow these steps:

- Determine actual weed problems;
- Identify soil type and organic level;
- Select needed herbicide combinations and use proper rates;
- Consider incorporation method

since herbicide rates vary with different tillage practices.

After carefully identifying weeds and determining soil type, herbicides and rates can be selected to best fit individual needs.

Doersch stresses the importance of following the herbicide label to determine rates. "We always advise against cutting herbicide rates to save money. However, we suggest farmers re-examine rates to make sure they are not over or under applying."

### Use PPI herbicide

"In good economic times some growers may kick their herbicide rate up higher for extra weed control insurance. Those applying at the heavy end of the label rate could easily back down to within the labeled range and still get good control," he notes.

Doersch also advises farmers to stay with a product that gives them consistent control over the years. "For example, if a grower has been using Treflan or Treflan tank mixes for the last 10 years and is

satisfied with his weed control, I say stick with it. Farmers shouldn't switch weed control programs based on one poor experience if they've had years of good results with the product previously."

Doersch believes farmers can further minimize weed control risk by using a preplant incorporated herbicide. "Preplant incorporated materials offer better insurance that surface-applied products which rely more on weather variables."

### Proper application

To help get the most from a preplant incorporated herbicide, Kermit Burnside, Plant Science Researcher for Elanco Products Company, emphasizes proper application and incorporation. He advises following these rules:

- Check to make sure equipment is set to accurately incorporate herbicides 2-3 inches deep.
- Make sure implement is level, especially wide, folding implements with floating wings. This

will help prevent streaked application.

- Don't work wet soil. Be especially aware of this in conservation tilled fields where ground may look dry on top.

Labeled tank mixes can contribute to herbicide savings, according to Burnside. However, farmers should not mix several chemicals that may not be compatible.

### Tank mixes

"Proper tank mixing can help

save trips over the field, reducing labor and fuel usage," Burnside points out. "They also provide good broad-spectrum weed control that is especially important early in the season. Tank mixing Treflan with other herbicides such as Sencor, Lexone or Amiben, for example, will help eliminate early competition from grasses and broadleaves and maintain control throughout the growing season," he explains.

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## Apple marketers

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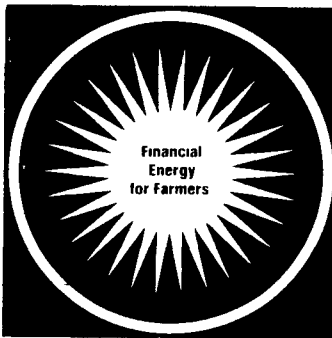
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