

Tips outlined to avoid herbicide drift

CHICAGO — The only sure way to sidestep problems with soybean drift injury when spraying corn for broadleaf weeds is to make the application before soybeans break through the ground. That's the best advice Extension specialists can offer for totally eliminating concerns over herbicide drift.

"Our best suggestion is to spray for broadleaf weeds before corn is five inches high," says Iowa State University Extension weed control specialist Mike Owen. "There is a good chance that soybeans will not be emerged at that time, and overall weed control can be improved."

Early corn planting and early broadleaf control are also part of the recommendations of William Meggitt, Extension weed control specialist with Michigan State University.

"If you can plan to apply broadleaf herbicides on corn prior to the five-inch stage at an early date, you'll rarely have problems with bean damage," Meggitt says.

The specialists feel that even if soybeans are emerged and minor drift occurs early, soybeans will come out of the stress with little or no actual yield reduction. Known by reputation as a crop that bounces back from stress as well as any, it's still best to avoid the situation altogether, if possible.

Later applications

Generally, the smaller the spray

droplet size and the higher the wind speed, the greater the distance spray particles can travel. Wind velocities are usually lowest in early morning or late in the day, so applications made at those times of the day could help to reduce actual occurrence of drift.

Owen suggests several operational procedures which can help to reduce the percentage of "fines" in the spray emission. Low spray pressure, high water volume, and proper nozzle selection all play important roles.

"For example, if you choose hollow cone nozzles, use a pressure of 60 p.s.i. and apply 10 gallons of water per acre, you're going to produce a very high percentage of fines," Owen says. "Reducing the pressure to about 20 p.s.i. and raising the gallonage to 20 per acre would supply a significant reduction in the number of fines in the spray."

Steve Pearson, Extension assistant in agricultural engineering at the University of Illinois, says switching to a different size or type of spray nozzle can also help. Special drift reducing nozzles are commercially available in Spraying Systems' LP (low pressure) flat fans or

Delavan's Raindrops

One of the easiest and most effective methods of reducing drift is to keep the height of the boom low, Pearson adds. A height of 24 inches or less is generally sufficient. In addition, use of drift-reducing additives, such as Nalco-Trol (made by Nalco Chemical Company) help reduce a percentage of fine spray particles produced.

Additional Tips

Richard Wilson, Field Scientist for Velsicol Chemical Corporation who has done extensive research on herbicide drift, offers some additional tips which apply when using Banvel herbicide near sensitive crops:

Make application when there is some air movement in order to judge direction and distance of potential drift, but when wind is less than five m.p.h.

Do not apply Banvel if daily temperature is expected to be higher than 85 degrees.

Depending on wind direction and speed, leave an adequate buffer zone and spray that area under more suitable conditions.

Aerial application equipment should never be used to apply Banvel when sensitive crops are in the immediate vicinity.

Wilson emphasizes that all factors which affect spray particle size and movement — pressure, water volume, environmental factors, etc. — should be considered by the spray applicator in order to form an effective drift prevention program.

"Good drift control procedures require using all of these techniques," he says. They are all interrelated, and an applicator's ability to prevent drift is really no better than the weakest component of the system."

Bush Hog honors Weaver

CARLISLE — Bob Weaver, Carlisle, Bush Hog representative for Pennsylvania, was recently named to the Bush Hog Million Dollar Club, an organization which recognizes representatives who have done over one million dollars in sales volume.

Bush Hog is one of the largest manufacturers of farm im-

plements in the world. The company set sales records and introduced 20 new farm implements in the past 12 months.

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PPG promotes Chandler

PITTSBURGH — Charles M. Chandler has been named to the new post of Atlantic district biochemicals sales manager for PPG Industries. He had been a PPG biochemicals field sales representative in the eastern United States since 1977.

Chandler joined PPG in 1969 as a biochemicals field research and development specialist. He held

that post until becoming a field sales representative.

In the new post, Chandler supervises sales of PPG biochemicals in all eastern seaboard states, as well as Vermont, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and eastern portions of Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. He will be based in the Southeast.

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