

Evaluate your fields during harvest

DE KALB, II — With harvest approaching, not is the time to get out the record book to evaluate hybrid performance, specific weed problems, pesticide performance and other crop production factors that will assist you in making better management decisions for

the next growing season, according to Clifton Parker, regional agronomist, DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics.

From the cab of the combine an operator can jot down information that will be valuable as management inputs are finalized

after harvest.

It is important to have your planting records in the cab with you as you proceed with harvest. Review your planting book before you start harvest in each field to make sure you are evaluating the correct hybrid or variety. Check

for standability — is it stalk lodging or root lodging? When a stalk is broken below the ear, it is classified as stalk lodging. When a plant is leaning greater than forty-five degrees from vertical, it is classified as root lodging.

Standability — You should develop a system for comparing hybrid standability. At DeKalb-

Pfizer Genetics, stalk strength is rated on a 1 to 9 scale, with 1 being best. This system may not work for you while harvesting because of a time crunch. However, a 1 to 4 rating system could be used as follows: 1-erect; 2-leaning less than 45 degrees; 3-root lodged and 4-stalk lodged.

At the end of the harvesting season hybrids can be evaluated objectively based on this rating. You may want to record whether lodging is due to corn borer, stalk rot or some other reason.

Yield — Will you eyeball and estimate from the combine hopper or will you weigh? To accurately determine yield, the product must be weighed. Some hybrids may not withstand the eyeball test in the combine hopper because they have heavy test weight, and grain takes up less space than lighter weight hybrids.

Take the time to weigh each different hybrid and compare. Check moisture, ease of harvesting and other factors that are important to you as evaluations of each hybrid are made. You can apply a rating system to each factor you are evaluating and let the numbers aid you in making management decisions.

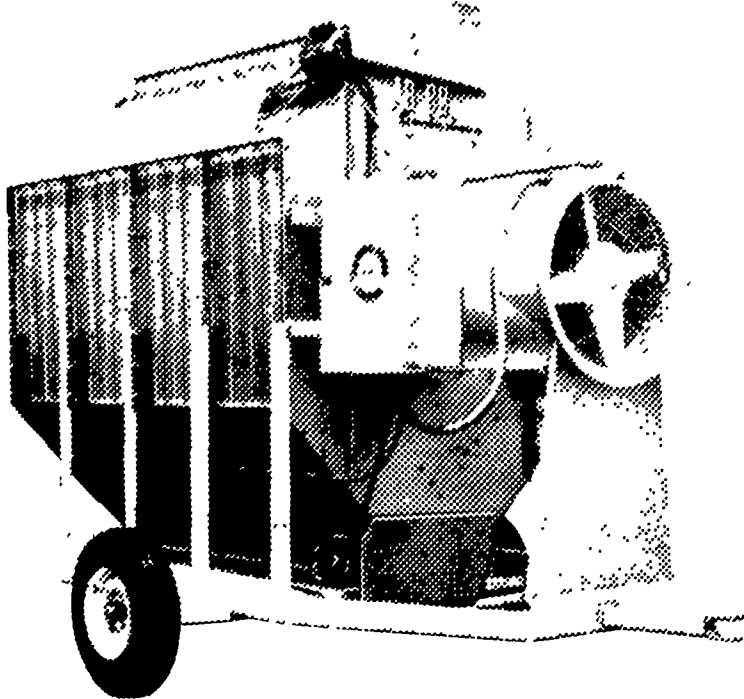
Weeds — The silent robbers of yield must be controlled. What are the specific problem weeds in each field? It is important to note and record location of weed areas for treatment next year. Shattercane, johnsongrass, velvetleaf and others should be treated timely to limit or stop their spread in a field. Do not spread weed seed or contaminate clean field. Avoid run-

(Turn to Page D20)

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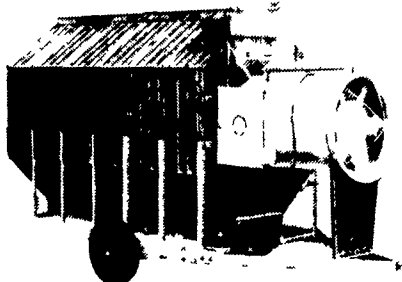
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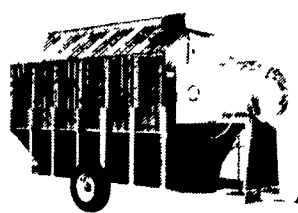
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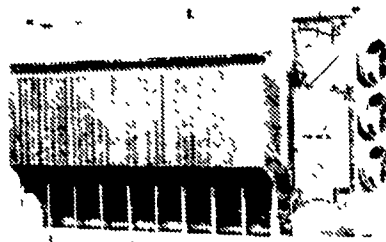
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