

Weed control in no-till beans cited

LANCASTER — New postemergence herbicides such as Poast and Fusilade, in combination with Paraquat+Plus and other old-time industry standards, are making no-till soybeans an option for many new growers across the country, according to the experts.

"For the first time, we've got a no-till soybean herbicide program that will control shattercane and Johnsongrass," says Nate Hartwig, weed scientist at Penn State.

Hartwig says these grasses, along with triazine resistant pigweed and other hard-to-control weeds, have begun to move into the southeastern section of the state where most no-till soybeans are grown. They were impeding the growth of no-till soybeans and even threatening corn yields, he says, until tools were developed to control them.

Hartwig says a two-step program to control these weeds begins with an economical, at-

planting treatment of Paraquat and common residuals, such as Lorox, Sencor or Lexone tank mixed with Dual or Lasso. After the soybeans are up, Poast or Fusilade is applied as a spot treatment for escaping grasses.

"This program is the only alternative we have for johnsongrass or shattercane control, unless farmers want to resort to heavy tillage or incorporated herbicides in corn," Hartwig says.

Ellery Knake, Extension weed scientist at the University of Illinois, says in some cases, farmers might omit their soil-applied herbicide for grass control and use post treatments instead. He says farmers who want to "see the enemy" might apply Paraquat and a herbicide for broadleaf weeds at planting and come back with a post treatment as needed for control of grass weeds.

Knake doesn't expect farmers will be giving up their Lasso, Dual

and other soil-applied treatments for grass control just yet. "Some of our more cautious farmers might continue to use a soil-applied herbicide for control of grass

weeds and use postemergence sprays as a backup," he says. "But either way, these post treatments allow soybean growers new help for reduced tillage systems."

Re-new kit

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takes a Butler dealer less than a day. "The farmer shouldn't miss a feeding when the kit is installed," Kapsner pointed out.

"By replacing worn parts found during the inspection, combined with installation of a Re-New Kit, farmers can get a high-capacity unloader at a lower-than-replacement price."

According to Kapsner, these savings are important in today's economy where farmers are often forced to keep repairing old equipment, forestalling new purchases. "With the Re-New Kit, a farmer gets both," explained Kapsner. "he repairs his old machine, while getting the features of a new system."

The kit's design improvements were tested during the past two severe Wisconsin winters. Kapsner reported that these new features provide the higher capacity, less maintenance and easier service of the Volumaster silage distributor/unloader.

One reason for the higher unloader capacity is the reduced blower speed. "By dropping

blower speed from 1,200 r.p.m. (on the Volumatic III) to 950 r.p.m., we increased the amount of horsepower available to the auger," explained Gordon Foes, product engineer. "The auger can move more feed to the blower and out the chute. The new chute's deeper design also improves feed flow because it channels forage and air movement more efficiently. Farmers can expect a 10% to 15% increase in forage handling capacity."

Butler also made changes in design details that improved reliability and serviceability. According to Foes, the new fiberglass discharge chute, with a stainless steel liner, helps prevent wear for longer life. He added that the new six-blade chipper wheel shaves frozen silage off the wall better. Furthermore, new wall wheels, designed in one piece from solid polyethylene, reduce wear and improve longevity.

"All these small changes add up to a big improvement in the unloader's everyday performance," Foes concluded.

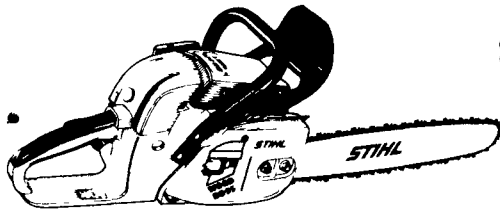
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