Velsicol introduces Marksman herbicide

CHICAGO — To defend their crops against the onslaught of velvetleaf and other tough-to-control broadleaf weeds, corn farmers now have a potent new weapon in their herbicide arsenal.

Marksman® herbicide, a postemergence product guaranteed to control velvetleaf and more than 35 other annual broadleaf weeds in corn, including triazine resistant species, has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The new herbicide, manufactured by Velsicol Chemical Corporation, will ba available in the Corn Belt, Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states for 1986.

The wide window of application timing for Marksman--nearly three weeks--gives added flexibility to the concept of early postemergence weed control. Farmers can make their application from emergence of corn through the five-leaf stage and still obtain excellent control (see Chart 1).

This extended application period gives farmers the ability to work around such factors as soybean planting and unforeseen weather conditions, unlike the triazines.

Marksman, which provides a wide margin of crop safety, is a unique formulation of dicamba combined with atrazine that translocates throughout weed tissue. It controls newly emerged weeds while the extended residual activity stops later germinating weeds for full season broadleaf control without carryover to soybeans the next year.

Velsicol guarantees the performance of Marksman at full labeled rates on velvetleaf and other annual broadleaf weeds including triazine-resistant broadleaves, says Stephen Cain, Velsicol product manager for Marksman. If applied at maximum label rates early postemergence and before corn exceeds the five-leaf stage, Marksman will provide full season control of labeled weeds. In addition, Marksman offers good suppression of emerged broadleaf perennial weeds.

Documented Performance

The performance of Marksman has been well-documented in more than 60 research field tests conducted throughout the Corn Belt in 1985, reports William O'Neal, Velsicol's Product Development eastern regional manager.

"Consistency of performance over all test locations and under varied weather conditions demonstrated the effectiveness of Marksman. Other broadleaf herbicides tested against Marksman provided acceptable velvetleaf control only under optimal conditions," notes O'Neal.

In direct comparison trials during 1985, Marksman averaged 95 percent control of velvetleaf, cocklebur, ragweed and many other broadleaf weeds including triazine-resistant species. In contrast, control provided by atrazine, Bladex and the combination of Bladex plus atrazine frequently fell below 75 percent. Overall, control with Marksman increases as the season progressed, while control exhibited by the triazines steadily declined.

Marksman promises to play a key role in helping farmers halt the rapid spread of velvetleaf throughout the Corn Belt.

Today, velvetleaf infests nearly 25 million corn acres, according to a Doane-Western, Inc. survey. University weed scientists in the Midwest have observed the increase in velvetleaf and predict it will continue to be a problem for farmers. "Velvetleaf infestations have increased noticably in the last five years," says Dr. Alex Martin, professor of weed science at the University of Nebraska. "And the current assortment of preemergence herbicides are proving ineffective in halting its growth," says O'Neal.

Reporting significant yield loss, farmers are paying the price for the proliferation of velvetleaf. Assessing velvetleaf's economic impact, the Doane survey reports that more than 27 percent of corn growers confirmed velvetleaf reduced yields up to 10 bushels per acre.

According to O'Neal, Marksman also controls established stands of triazine-resistant broadleaves and will stop the spread of these weeds from becoming dominant in areas where resistance has not been confirmed but is suspected. Already 40 weed species of traizine-resistant weeds have been identified. And triazine-resistant velvetleaf has been confirmed in the Northeast.

Application Rates and Timing

For best performance and guaranted control, broadcast or band applications of Marksman herbicide should be made when broadleaf weeds have emerged and are actively growing. Dr. Wayne Olson, Product Development field manager, based in Indianapolis, IN, says Marksman may be applied before, during or after planting but before corn exceeds the five-leaf stage. Broadcast rates are between 2 and 3½ pints per acre, depending on soil type and percentage of organic matter.

Marksman may be applied as a sequential treatment to several preemergence grass control products, including Lasso, Dual Sutan and Eradicane or Prowl. It may also be used as a sequential treatment with several contact burndown treatments, such as Roundup, paraquat or Bronco.

Dt. Olson says Marksman can also be tank mixed with Dual, Lasso, paraquat, Prowl, Roundup or 2,4-D. Marksman works well in all types of tillage, including reduced tillage and no-till where broadleaf weeds, particularly velvetleaf, are harder to control.