

Pre-planting Herbicides

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coverage on the seed.

Pre-planting incorporation works very well for those herbicides which are actually degraded by the sunlight. Also, most those herbicides which are most volatile lose less of their power when used this way prior to planting.

There is also less variability in weed control when using pre-plant incorporated herbicides. Efficiency should be between 80-90 percent.

There is a big advantage when pre-planting herbicides are used to control large seed weeds because the herbicide can be incorporated 2-3 inches deep where the weeds actually germinate. This is superior to the surface application which depends on the rain to carry and the rain won't carry to the level of germination.

Using pre-plant herbicides, although it does postpone planting, forces the farmer to get his weed control work done first. That's a big plus. Trying to control weeds when the farmer can see them is sometimes too late and not cost effective.

Pre-emergence herbicides are far superior to other programs for use. Because there is no diluting as in post emergence to protect the crop, pre-emergence allows a higher concentration of chemical application.

One big "must" with pre-emergence is the use of markers on the sprayer to mark the field. How many farmers are able to spread or spray without markers and not come up with some skipped strips.

New Products To Look For

Some new materials are coming up for use with corn. According to Yocum Accent® should be ready by next spring. Agronomists were hoping for the EPA to see an emergency situation and make it available in 1989 because it is far superior to anything in controlling shattercane.

Tough® is a post emergence herbicide for corn which will also be available next year. It is excellent in test plots controlling 3-4 inch high pigweed and lambsquarters and on Triazin® resistant weeds.

One drawback Yocum noted, Tough® stinks. If it works of course, most farmers won't care, but those farmers near urban areas will need to be concerned because it draws attention to their herbicide use and application.

Also, there is a label change for Prowl® for use with no-till corn, but the seed must be 1/2" deep.

Harmony® is the new product for use with wheat and barley. It is excellent in controlling wild garlic and chickweed. It must be used with a surfactant or it won't work. Liquid nitrogen has shown to work best with it. It works slowly, Yocum cautioned, but it does work. The plant stops growing when it comes in contact with Harmony®, but the effects do not appear for nearly two weeks.

For alfalfa Bucril® is effective in controlling wild radish, but a caution here. If the next three days are to be in the 70 degrees, don't use, it won't work.

For soybeans Pursuit®, a post-emergence, is an excellent control for velvet leaf and giant ragweed. Its advantage over Scepter is that it gives the farmer better control over velvet leaf. Assure® and Option® have been shown to effectively control the warm season grasses.

Do you want to go back to mechanical cultivation?

The environmental impact of agri-chemical use is being increasingly scrutinized. Chemical use replaced the need for mechanical cultivation. However, cultivation can reduce the need or eliminate the need for chemical use. But unfortunately there is much more to the chemical versus mechanical debate.

Lynn Hoffman, senior research associate with the Penn State Agronomy Department noted that between the all-mechanical and all-chemicals weed control prog-

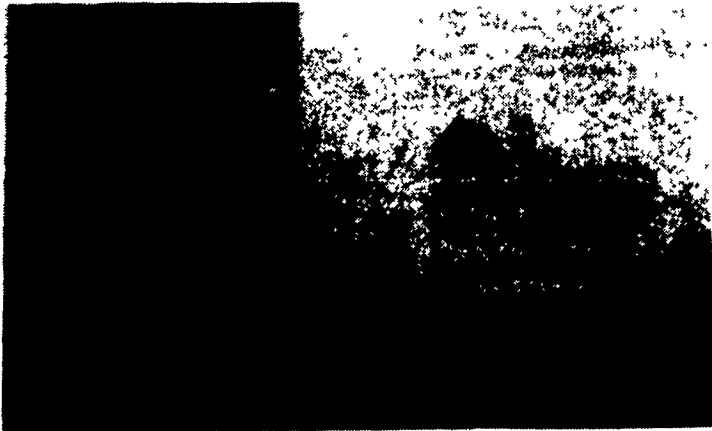
rams there is a lot of room for opportunity to reduce the environmental impact and chemical management ability of the farmer.

There are drawbacks to the mechanical side. It moves away from minimum tillage systems, destroys beneficial crop residues and anyone who remembers cultivating corn, knows it is a slow, slow process. Hoffman asked in this high gear industry, who has that kind of time?

For those who are attracted to this idea there are a variety of cultivator tools and they are complex machines with many adjustments critical to the success of your crop.

To be considered are depth of cultivation around crop, closeness to crop and possibility of plowing

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As part of the Chester County Crops Day Elbert Wells, (left) director of Chester County Soil and Water Conservation presented the USDA's Bicentennial Farm Award to Robert Kolle. Six families in Chester County were honored for farming the same land for 200 years or more. They were: Thomas Martin of West Grove; William Handy of Coatesville; Robert F. Cochran of Cochranville; Charles McFarlan of Downingtown; Jane (Kreuger) McElhenry of Honey Brook; and Marlan Kolle of Pottstown.



Dave Pierce received the Clean Water award presented by the Chesapeake Bay Program for his soil conservation and nutrient management practices on his 130-acre farm near Lincoln University in Chester County. Pierce was the first Chester County farmer to sign up for the program. He was recently named the regional winner of the Clean Water award. He is the second farmer to win that honor in Chester County. Presenting the award is Dan Grieg, Chester County Conservation District Manager.



Mr. and Mrs. William Handy, Jr. were awarded the USDA's Bicentennial Farm Award by Elbert Wells, Director of Chester County Soil Conservation.

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This advertisement is sponsored by Lancaster County Farmers' Association for National Agriculture Day, March 20
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