

Herbicide In Tablet Form

WILMINGTON, Del. — Du Pont Agricultural Products will test market a new soybean herbicide in tablet form this spring, the "Pinnacle Agtab."

About the size of a silver dollar, the "Agtab" — short for agricultural tablet — reacts in water much the same way as seltzer tablets.

"Effervescent tablet technology is available now," said Ran Langille, Du Pont sales manager for "Pinnacle" soybean herbicide. "Pinnacle Agtab combines weed control power with the latest in handling and measuring ease," said Langille. "It is the size of a silver dollar, and when dropped in water, the Agtab disperses in much the same fashion as a seltzer tablet.

"As a self-dispersing herbicide, Pinnacle Agtab has a great deal to offer farmers and the environment," Langille said. "It is pre-measured, so there is no waste, no dust or liquid splash. Spill recovery is easy because you can just pick up a dropped Agtab or part of one."

The test marketing will be conducted in several Midwestern states, as Du Pont seeks farmers' reaction to Agtab formulation. "When the Agtab becomes wet, a reaction between citric acid and sodium bicarbonate takes place to produce carbon dioxide, which breaks the tablet apart."

"Agtab will completely disperse in 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 minutes without agitation in water that is approximately 50 degrees F," said David Jackisch, Du Pont formulations researcher. It takes three to



Du Pont is test marketing the Pinnacle "Agtab," a new effervescent tablet formulation of Pinnacle soybean herbicide. The Agtab (short for agricultural tablet) reacts in water to self-disperse. Pinnacle Agtab targets the same tough weeds as Pinnacle DF, including lambsquarters, velvetleaf, annual smartweed, and pigweed.

five minutes for an Agtab to disperse in very cold water (34 to 36 degrees F).

One tablet contains enough

"Pinnacle" to treat four acres at a 1/4-ounce-per-acre rate. "Each Agtab is scored into four quarters to allow exact, one-acre measurement," said Jackisch. "The tablet breaks cleanly in halves or quarters when pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides of the break line."

Five Agtabs are packaged in a plastic bottle; one bottle treats 20 acres. The bottle is foil-sealed and contains a drying agent in the bottom. Six bottles are contained in each carton.

Pinnacle Agtab targets the same tough weeds as Pinnacle DF, including lambsquarters, velvetleaf, annual smartweed and pigweed. Like Pinnacle DF, Pinnacle Agtab can be tank-mixed with other herbicides, such as Du Pont "Classic" for broader-spectrum weed control.

"The Agtab tablets can be added to the spray tank at any time," said Jackisch. "If they are thrown into an empty tank, they will completely disperse long before the tank is filled with water." Jackisch recommends that if other products are to be added to the tank, the Agtab tablets should be put in first, as some emulsifiable concentrates and surfactants may affect the breakup time of the tablets.

Pinnacle is a member of the sulfonylurea family of chemistry discovered by Du Pont more than a decade ago. Sulfonylurea herbicides are used at very low use rates — fractions of an ounce of active ingredient per acre.

"Du Pont has strict guidelines for product development to ensure



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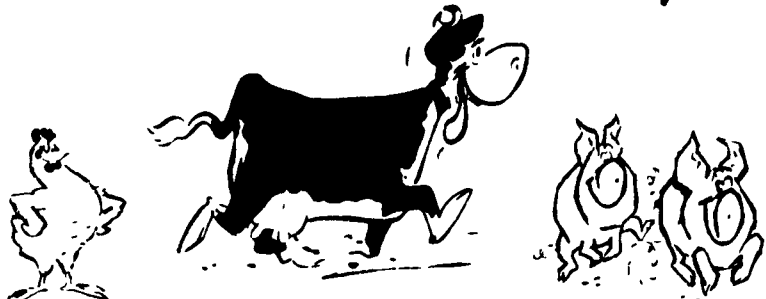
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that its new products follow The Du Pont Company's vision of producing environmentally compatible products in a working partnership with nature," said Langille.

"Pinnacle Agtab and Pinnacle DF do just that, as these herbicides are easy on the people who use them and are compatible with the environment."

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