

Farmers Should Consider Environment

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examine their needs and follow the labels closely. Also, some herbicides cannot be used in combination, and farmers should be watching the rotation schedule. They also should look out for the new

"restricted use" labeling going on.

"Atrazine is becoming a restricted-use product," Ritter said. "Those of you who are not certified, if you're thinking about getting atrazine or getting a product that has atrazine in it, you're

going to have to be certified."

A new product, such as Du Pont's Accent, works well with many of the annual and perennial grasses, according to Ritter. Beacon, another new product, will offer good control of some of the broadleaf weeds.

New products

In 1990, a number of new products were introduced, and some do not yet have the label. Ally for grass pastures (a sulfonylurea) has no grazing restrictions. Pursuit, for alfalfa, may not be available for some time down the road, but may be good for many post-emergent applications. Stinger, which could get labelling in late 1990, is excellent on controlling broadleaf weeds, said Ritter.

Some farmers have trouble with older weeds. But the researchers are discovering more exact herbicide applications to control them.

"Johnsongrass, I'll tell you, this thing's a beast," he said. "As many of you from Maryland or Pennsylvania are trying to tackle this one, new materials have some activity." Accent will help control most of the weed pressure, except in extreme cases. Beacon also is recommended, according to Ritter,

but none of the materials are 100 percent active on some of the hard-to-control grasses.

Professional advice

Farmers should seek professional advice in determining what type of herbicide to use and in what manner, according to most experts. But farmers should be aware that, in some cases, the use of certain herbicides in certain situations can create different problems.

Control pressure

Some conventional practices, such as tillage and not spraying under drought stress conditions, proper timing, and rotating soybeans will also help control weed pressure.

"Keep in mind that there are some serious and severe rotational restrictions on each and every one of these products," said Ritter. "So when you think about chemical weed control, think about crop rotation."



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