

# Trials Prove Corn Herbicides Need Sufficient Rainfall To Work

(Continued from Page 1)

mines three different rates of herbicide — low, medium, and high — and how the weeds are controlled.

Farmers interested in soil conservation and retaining surface crop residue should use the late-kill rye, which provides a nearly 90 percent cover. The rye cover also acts as a good weed suppressor, which, in combination with post-emergence herbicide applications, can help keep weeds to a minimum.

The problem is, according to the weed specialist, the remain-

ing cover can tie up preemergence herbicides and also promote the emergence of cutworms, slugs, and other insects. In addition, the rye residue has several "allelopathic" effects, according to Curran — as it breaks down, it releases toxins that hinder corn growth. Also, corn emergence can be spotty, because of skips from ineffective corn planting through the dense cover.

The good news is, early rains also were held in by the cover, which acts as a mulch. And those some "allelopathic"

effects, in theory, according to the weed specialist, should help to control weeds.

Whatever the practice, according to Curran, farmers will need to consider using additional weed control measures if using a rye cover before corn.

Other elements of the tour focused on early preplant corn herbicides and their effectiveness in no-till corn (of which little stood out in the treatment of grasses, according to Curran, but of which several were effective on broadleaves), triazine programs in reduced-

tillage corn, and weed control Imidazolinone-resistant corn programs this year for varieties.



Several Penn State graduate assistants were on hand during the annual Weed Tour at the Landisville Research Station on Tuesday, including, second from left, Vijay Nandula, Ed Werner, and Bob Parks. Assisting in the tour were John Yocum, research station manager, far left, and Bill Curran, Penn State weed specialist, far right.



Bill Curran, Penn State weed specialist, examines the benefits and drawbacks of using a rye cover crop on weed emergence and its "allelopathic" effects on corn at the annual Weed Tour.

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economies, but also on the economy of the United States as a whole.

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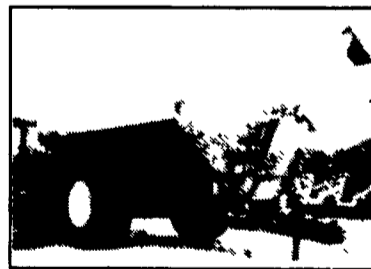
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