

Crops Information At Ag Progress

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—New herbicide-resistant corn and soybean cultivars are providing more weed-control alternatives for farmers. Visitors can see herbicide-resistant corn and soybeans at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, Aug. 15-17.

"Advantages of herbicide-resistant crops include greater flexibility for herbicide applications and more effective handling of hard-to-control weeds," said Dwight Lingenfelter, graduate student in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "There also are economic advantages.

"Some herbicides can remain in soil and injure subsequent plantings in crop rotations," Lingenfelter said. "Planting herbicide-resistant crops can help alleviate problems with herbicide carryover. Herbicides also can be used on late-emerging weeds in these crops."

Several herbicide-resistant corn and soybean cultivars will be displayed at Ag Progress Days in demonstration plots near the Crop and Soil Science Tent, located at the end of East 5th Street. Featured will be the following:

- Roundup-Ready soybeans. Registered by the Environmental Protection Agency this spring, these soybeans are resistant to glyphosate, a commonly used broad-spectrum post-emergence herbicide.

- Liberty-tolerant corn and soybeans. These cultivars, due to be registered in 1997, are resistant to glufosinate, a broad-spectrum post-emergence herbicide.

- Poast-resistant corn. Registered by the EPA this spring, this corn is resistant to sethoxydim, a post-emergence grass herbicide.

- STS soybeans. These soybeans have been registered for the past several years and are tolerant to the sulfonylurea herbicide family, which mainly are used as post-emergence herbicides.

- IMI corn. Also registered for several years, this corn is tolerant of imidazolinone and sulfonylurea herbicides. This crop is mainly used for carryover situations in crop rotations and for over-the-top applications of herbicides.

Chemical companies and research institutions are continually working to develop more resistant cultivars. "Several have been developed using standard tissue culture techniques, isolating herbicide-resistant traits," said Lingenfelter. "Others have been genetically engineered by trans-

ferring genes from resistant organisms, such as bacteria."

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For more information, call (800) PSU-1010 toll-free through August 17.

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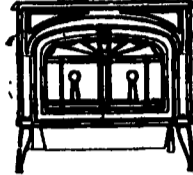
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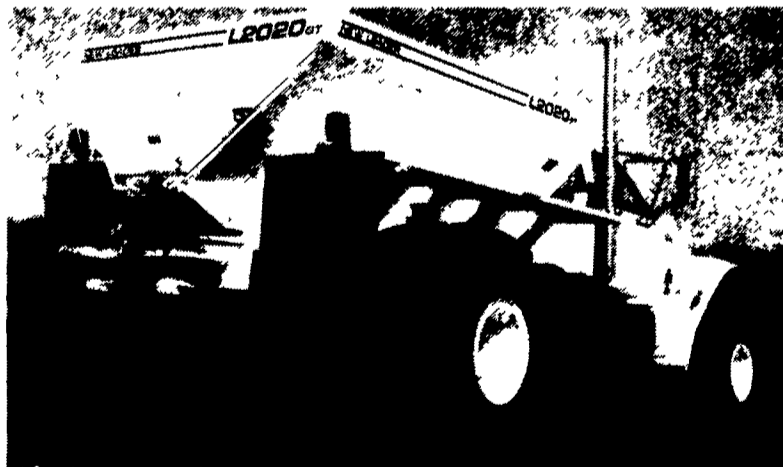
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