

# Volunteer Corn Could Pose Challenges

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
GUTHRIESVILLE (Chester Co.) — Voluntary corn — corn seeds shed from an ear that pop up like weeds the following season, hurting good corn yields — is already a problem in Pennsylvania.

But if farmers aren't vigilant in their field management of new Roundup Ready varieties, the genetically enhanced, herbicide-resistant corn can pose additional challenges as volunteer corn when farmers are rotated to soybeans.

When using the Roundup Ready varieties, "use good planning and thinking and remembering, or you're going to wind up with a real mess," said John Yocum, Penn State Southeast Extension Center Research Station manager in Landisville.

Yocum spoke to about 80 producers and agri-industry representatives Tuesday morning during the Penn State-sponsored Chester County Crops Day at the Guthriesville Fire Hall.

Roundup, a widely used all-purpose herbicide, will not kill Roundup volunteer corn, Yocum noted. The best management strategy is to keep careful records of what crop will be rotated and to use agronomically recommended products that work on the herbicide-resistant varieties of the volunteer corn that sprouts.

Several applications could end up doing the job, but it's important to use proper management. And it's important to note that some cross-pollination could occur to make non-resistant varieties resistant when the corn re-emerges as volunteer corn.

Additionally, Yocum spoke about new and updated products that are available to growers this year. He also spoke about herbicides that are pending EPA registration. Yocum noted that the herbicide "price wars" going on will benefit growers, especially for soybean products.

Prices are coming down more than half, the research station manager noted.

Yocum indicated several products new for the market this year, including Accent Gold from DuPont, an alternative to atrazine, containing Accent and Hornet for broad spectrum control of broadleaves and select grasses; Aim

40DF from FMC, a postemergence contact-type herbicide; Balance 75WDG from Rhone Poulenc, a preemergent herbicide replacement for atrazine, offering control of broadleaf weeds; FieldMaster 4.25L from Monsanto, a broad-spectrum herbicide for the 1998 season; Pinnacle 25DF from DuPont, an early postapplication herbicide for corn; and Spirit 57WG from Novartis.

Yocum also noted that Roundup Ready corn will be available in limited supplies (about 1 million acres nationwide) from Dekalb. There will only be 2-3 hybrids for this region.

He also provided some corn herbicide updates. For soybeans, there are three new products: Authority Broadleaf 56.3DF from FMC and Canopy XL 56.3 DF from DuPont, preemergent material that controls Eastern Black Nightshade; FirstRate 84 WDG from Dow AgroSciences, formerly Dow Elanco, used pre- or postapplication for broadleaf weeds; and Steel 2.59E (American Cyanamid), a premix (Turn to Page A33)



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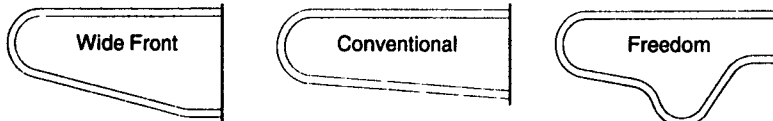
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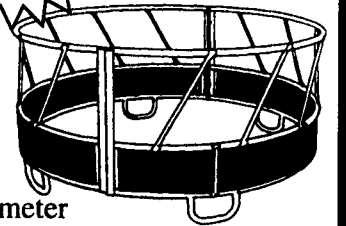
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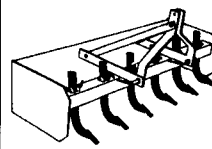
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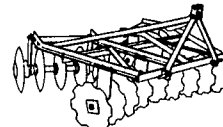
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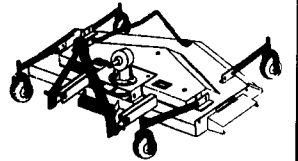
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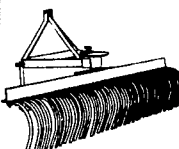
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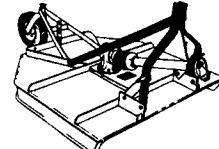
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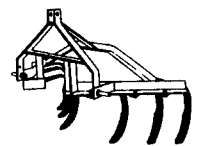
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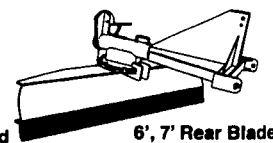
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