

Pioneer Offers Corn Hybrid-Herbicide Management Guide To Producers

DES MOINES, Iowa — A unique corn herbicide management guide from Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., can help producers as they select corn herbicides for their weed control programs next season. The guide can be found on-line at: http://www.pioneer.com/agronomy/herbicide_guide.htm or by contacting your local Pioneer representative.

The Pioneer Corn Hybrid-Herbicide Management Guide rates the herbicide/hybrid interaction of more than 100 Pioneer® brand hybrids to four major herbicide families. The guide has been available to growers since 1997. Overall, Pioneer's research results show most hybrids have adequate tolerance to the herbicide families tested.

"Pioneer has been conducting herbicide-by-hybrid research for more than 20 years," says Paul Gaspar, Pioneer research manager in Mankato, Minn. "These guides are the result of intensive rating of herbicide tolerance which began in 1994. The guides are designed to provide our customers with the information they will need to choose the right products and receive the maximum return from our hybrid corn products."

Gaspar points out that Pioneer's research generally shows the primary reason for crop response to herbicides is due to environmental stress conditions the herbicide and hybrid encounter, rather than the individual tolerance of the hybrid. However, with the introduction of many new herbicides, some interactions have been identified.

The four major, most commonly used herbicide families: amides (chloracetamides), isoxazole (pigment inhibitor), benzoic acids or phenoxy-carboxylic acids (auxins) and sulfonylureas are discussed in detail in the guide.

Each herbicide family received one of four ratings with each Pioneer brand hybrid based upon research trials and field observations. The ratings are:

- Adequate tolerance: The herbicide-hybrid combination has acceptable tolerance to the herbicide. Therefore, under normal growing conditions, injury is unlikely to occur when label directions are followed.

- Requires careful management: This herbicide-hybrid combination may exhibit crop injury in challenging environments, such as heavy rainfall during seed germination or seedling emergence, sandy soils low in organic matter, high pH soils, or during periods of excessively cold, hot, dry or wet weather. Thus, careful management is warranted to avoid herbicide injury. The potential of herbicide-by-hybrid interaction may also be impacted by the labeled herbicide rate used and the method or timing of application. The management needed to reduce injury potential depends on the specific herbicide family.

- Crop response warning: Field observations and research indicate crop injury has occurred with this herbicide-hybrid combination.

- Insufficient data: Additional testing is needed to evaluate the herbicide-hybrid combination.

Caterpillar And Agco Reach Agreement On Next Generation Of Challenger® Tractors

PEORIA, Ill. and DULUTH, Ga. — Caterpillar, Inc. (NYSE: Cat) and Agco (NYSE: AG) have signed an agreement for Agco, a Georgia-based agricultural equipment manufacturer and distributor, to acquire the design, assembly and worldwide marketing of the new MT Series of Caterpillar's Challenger® high-tech farm tractors.

"Caterpillar has a long history of designing and producing rugged, reliable agricultural machines, and this industry continues to represent an important growth opportunity for us," said Robert Macier, Caterpillar vice president with responsibility for the company's Diversified Products Division. "This agreement enables us to focus our efforts on those areas where we can add the highest value — engines, drivetrains, electronics and technology development — while Agco provides its expertise in the assembly and marketing of agricultural products. It also offers Caterpillar the opportunity to provide additional engines and other components to Agco — one of the leading global suppliers of agricultural equipment."

Macier noted that Caterpillar already is a major engine supplier to Agco, which is one of the largest customers of Caterpillar's Perkins Engines division.

John Shumejda, president and CEO of Agco said, "This new and innovative tractor technology gives Agco a leading entry into high-technology farming and large-acreage farming market segments. In addition, Agco will provide Caterpillar dealers with additional products that will broaden their equipment offerings and enhance their competitive position in the agricultural equipment market."

Agco is a multiple-brand producer with a full agricultural product line that Agco sells

throughout the world under brands that include Massey Ferguson, Hesston, Gleaner and Fendt.

Under the agreement, Macier and Shumejda said, Agco will immediately begin assembly of four models of the newly announced MT700 series of Challenger tractors. It also calls for Caterpillar to be a long-term supplier of high-horsepower (220-500 hp) diesel engines, drivetrains, and other major components, including the patented Mobil-trac™ system, with its rubber tracks that enable

more efficient use of engine power with less soil compaction. This agreement also includes future MT Series tractors.

Agco will acquire the MT Series product design, and will continue to market the tractors through Caterpillar dealers worldwide, as well as through a selected network of Agco dealers. Caterpillar will provide technical support to Agco on track technology and will maintain customer support services for all Challenger tractors produced before the sale of the MT Series to Agco.

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