An **Answer** *To* **Weeds**

Halex GT Is Solution For Farmers Using Two-Shot Glyphosate Treatments

BETTY VALLE GEGG
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

INA, ILL.

Weeds and ways to control them is a topic well understood by Craig Abell, technical service representative for Syngenta Crop Protection, located near Champaign, Ill.

"Halex GT is one of Syngenta's brand new products, and it's a glyphosate product that has residual control," he explained. "One of our biggest challenges today in the Illinois and midwest market is weeds that won't die. So we have waterhemp plants that won't die with glyphosate. We have a lot of glyphosate tolerant (GT) corn out there so we developed Halex GT and it's a glyphosate product that has residual control and has three modes of action. We can go into fields where the standard glyphosate program fails and we can use Halex GT and we've got three modes of action, residual control, good burn down and residual weed control. We can have a much better program than we can with the standard glyphosate type program."

"Weeds that won't die" is a topic discussed by Craig Abell, Technical Service Representative for Syngenta Crop Protection. Photo by John LaRose

Actually, 2008 was the launch year for Halex GT. Syngenta had some commercial demos in 2007, tank mix applications were put together, but this is Syngenta's first full year with the product.

"Out in the field, it looks phenomenal," Abell said. "In a lot of cases, the people who have adopted this product are people that were trying to use total post glyphosate and it just flat wasn't working. They were making two and three applications. So we started them with a timely application on two to four inch tall weeds with Halex GT at 3.6 pints and they were getting very good control."

Halex GT works very well on two to four-inch tall weeds, but will still control the larger weeds.

"We do not want to have irreversible damage to the crop and we don't want to suffer yield loss that's due to competition from the weeds," he said. "That's the reason we want to be timely. We don't want the weeds to get tall and compete with the crop, we want to be before that."

Abell mentioned that weeds retard root growth by competing for space below ground, just like they compete for space and light above ground.

"They also compete for moisture, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, all the things we have to make grain, below ground," he said. "Also, the problem weeds are much more inefficient users than a corn plant. So they'll take nutrients up two or three times faster than a corn plant will."

Halex GT is not replacing any product, it's just adding to Syngenta's arsenal of products.

"The optimum weed control, and where we've always sold a lot of products like Lexar, is a residual herbicide, preemergence and followed by a post application of a product like Touchdown," Abell said. "That's always going to give you the best weed control. However, we developed Halex GT for the person that was trying to use total post glyphosate, and that hasn't been our number one recommendation. As a company, we always want you to have a residual and multiple modes of action. So we developed Halex GT really for the customer we didn't have. We're trying to help the guy that's trying to use total post glyphosate and is running into problems. We developed it to fit that market."

This was a market that Syngenta was not previously addressing. The company's number one recommendation is to use Lexar followed by Touchdown.

"That will always give the best results," Abell said.

Halex GT is for the producer who has been putting a couple of shots of glyphosate out total post, and usually having marginal results with that.

In trials, Syngenta had side-by-side fields where one side had a standard two-shot glyphosate program and the other treated with Halex GT. In some cases the first flush was missed and the weeds kept growing. With the second flush coming on the Halex GT side, everything was killed, because there were three modes of action along with residual effects.

"We're going to take these to yield, and last year where we did this we saw anywhere from a seven to 10 bushel difference in yield between two shots of total post and a Halex GT with residual," Abell said.

Halex GT can only be used on GT corn, regardless of which company supplies the seed.

"It works on any brand of glyphosate tolerant corn," he said.

"The growers that tried it this past year that still want to stay on their total post program, I think they will widely adopt it for all their acres as we go forward," Abell said. "It's more efficient for them, they're getting better weed control and they're managing resistance, so they're killing several birds with one stone by going this way."

Δ