

Change The Mentality

Think Outside The Box To Keep Glyphosate Technology Useful

Part 2 of 6

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“If you keep the resistance from ever happening on your farm you keep both technologies, Roundup Ready and LibertyLink,” said Dr. Ford Baldwin, retired weed scientist now working as a private consultant. “You keep both equally useful that way; whereas when you use up the Roundup you’ve probably thrown away the best technology any of us will ever see. Then we start using up the LibertyLink, which is as close to Roundup Ready as probably anything we’re ever going to have.”

Farmers who are not proactive in preventing pigweed from becoming glyphosate resistant on their farms by integrating older technologies into their weed control program are inviting trouble.

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“We’re all creatures of habit,” Baldwin continued while visiting the UA test plots on the Sid Fogg farm. “You know, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. It’s going to take a change in mentality from the industry level to the reseller level. Resellers are going to have to start looking at what’s best for their customer five years out, instead maybe of what’s best for their bottom line this year. I’m not being critical, it’s just going to take a change in mentality across the board.”

Baldwin laments the fact that no one is changing technologies until they’ve already used up the Roundup technology.

“All that does is force us to start using up our next technology and the new ones aren’t coming along very quickly,” he added. “We have such a tremendous opportunity for people to get into a prevention program and diversify their program, whether it be LibertyLink or Roundup Ready;

diversify their cropping a little bit more, diversity meaning getting more older conventional herbicides in their program.”

Baldwin tells farmers who have not yet seen the resistance they haven’t been through the fight yet.



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Photo by John LaRose

“They don’t have the pigweed population built up in a lot of fields like we had it before Roundup Ready,” he said. “A weed control program that can look pretty good in a scattered to light infestation might look terrible in a solid infestation. This site has a solid infestation of pigweed that tolerated 176 ounces of Roundup Weathermax last year, so they have the research plot in the place it needs to be.” Δ

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Editor’s Note: Be sure to check next week’s issue for Parts 3 & 4.



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