

# Early Is The Secret

## Timely Treatments Can Keep Soybean Fields Clean

Part 5 of 6

**BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER**

MidAmerica Farmer Grower

**WIDENER, AR.**

It took a disasterous year to learn that pigweed can be controlled, but the research at the Sid Fogg farm here is pointing the way for farmers caught up in the glyphosate resistance battle.

Dr. Bob Scott, University of Arkansas extension weed specialist, explained that 10 small plot trials this year on the Fogg farm are showing what works and what doesn't work.

"We have both LibertyLink and Roundup Ready studies out here," he said. "We're focused solely on Palmer pigweed and how to control those weeds in those programs. You can probably sum up all of the trials that we did by talking about getting applications out early, using residual herbicides up front and coming back early with post applied herbicides; and that goes for both the LibertyLink beans and the Roundup Ready beans."

Early is the secret and Scott said recommendations next year will focus on treatment seven to 10 days after soybean emergence.

"When it comes to pigweed, the mistake people make is to go out and spray two- to three-inch pigweed," he said. "Well, something

**Dr. Bob Scott, University of Arkansas Extension Weed Specialist, explained that 10 small plot trials this year on the Fogg farm are showing what works and what doesn't work in the glyphosate resistance battle.**

Photo by John LaRose



happens and they end up being six- to eight-inch pigweed before the application goes out and that's when we run into trouble as far as control."

Some plots show what happens when the pigweed is allowed to get too big. It's too late to do anything when that happens.

All reports are that the 2009 soybean crop on this farm was the worst ever seen. The test plots this year are actually in the field that had the worst pigweed infestation last year.

Even some of the test plots that had only a single application, or where they tried using only a residual, were a complete loss.

"We have some single application programs out here that are much better than Sid's crop last year, but they're not exactly where we'd like to be in terms of control," Scott said. "We were lucky at this location to get a half inch of rain after we put our pre-applications out, so we did get our pre treatments activated."

So there have been failures and successes in the test plots this year.

"We actually have very few of the true successes that are virtually pigweed free plots to show," he continued. "A lot of our programs have a few pigweeds in them. Some of the most effective programs are pretty clean. But it's a mixed bag of what we are going to show farmers today."

The plots will be open for viewing throughout the summer, and data from the research is available on the web.

"At the end of the year we do a research report. We don't have that up on the web just yet but it's available through my office."

Future recommendations will include the

same products that have been recommended, but the earliness and timing of applications will definitely change.

Pigweed infestation doesn't have to be a monster or nightmare, and the trials show that it can be controlled.

"I think we've shown right now we're capable of getting hold of it," Scott said. "The problem is that it takes extra time; it takes timeliness, it takes being on top of things. We can't plant 1,000 acres and then back up and start putting pre-applications out. We have to start doing it

as we go to be effective. We can't get in a hurry and forget about our weed control, like we've been able to do in the past. It's just going to take a little extra effort and a little more timeliness on our part.

"I don't believe that it has to be a train wreck. Time will tell what kind of train wreck we have, but we have some very good technology out here.

"To highlight two programs, the LibertyLink soybeans are obviously a good answer for Palmer pigweed. I like the early timing of 22 ounces at about 14 days after soybean emergence, and then come back with another 22 ounces about 14 to 21 days after that. That's a very good program approach. I also like the programs where we put a residual herbicide down like Dual or Prefix or Authority MTZ. As you can see in the plots, a lot of different residuals work in a LibertyLink program. We've even looked at Prowl and Treflan PPI again which we hadn't had in the plots for awhile. All of those programs look good if you get them out, get them activated and then come back with Ignite and that's a good program.

"And then Roundup Ready beans, the biggest thing we found out here is that everything happens in the first seven to 10 days after soybean emergence. If we can get a residual activated, if we can come back with our Flexstar or our Dual very early before the pigweeds have a chance to get very big or even come up at all, we can stay on top of them in a Roundup Ready program too." Δ

*BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER: Senior Staff Writer, MidAmerica Farmer Grower*



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