

# Pioneer Talks Crops



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This year several growers in the mid-South have been concerned about fields of corn with Roundup® drift and off-target applications. The most common calls have been from growers with non-GMO hybrids grown for end-use markets. Most of the issues so far have been from burn-down applications made on adjacent fields. Growers should use caution when making

mized in the upper mid-South. Thus, growers should pay close attention to seeding rate and seedbed preparation this spring. Soybean-planting rates vary depending upon the seed size and row spacing. If a particular soybean variety or seed lot has much smaller seed size, it may not be necessary to plant as many pounds of seed per acre to achieve the desired population. As a general seeding-rate guide, growers should utilize 130,000 seeds per acre for 38-inch row spacing, 150,000 seed per acre for 30-inch row spacing, 165,000 seeds per acre for 15- to 20-inch row spacing, and 180,000 seeds

General seed-size categories based on seed/pound	Seed size (seed/pound)	Seeding rate/acre		
		150,000	165,000	180,000
		Pounds OF Planted Seed/Acre		
Large	2,400	63	69	75
	2,600	58	64	69
Medium	2,800	54	59	64
	3,000	50	55	60
Small	3,200	47	52	56
	3,500	43	47	51

burndown and postemergence Roundup ULTRA® herbicide applications. Both corn and grain sorghum plants are very sensitive to small doses of this herbicide, and injury can be severe when the conditions are right for off-target movement. Typical symptoms include whitening of leaf tissue near the plant whorl and/or white patches on leaves. Recovery potential of the plants that survive is very difficult to determine. It will depend on how much herbicide the corn received and the growing conditions in the weeks following the accidental drift. Usually if plants have some green in the whorl and new leaves are green as they emerge, there is a good probability the plants will recover to some extent. If the whorl is white and new leaves have significant white color, plants usually do not survive.

Soybean planting is going to be later than normal once again in much of the mid-South. It is important to note that growers will be planting a majority of the full-season soybean crop in the planting window where plant height is opti-

per acre for 6- to 7.5-inch row spacing. Considering the planting date and height concerns for this time of year, it may be warranted for growers to use a more conservative seeding rate if there is a good seedbed with no rain in the immediate forecast.

Herbicide application windows for corn have been very short this year. Herbicide application timing is critical for corn. Weeds need to be controlled in the three to five weeks after planting to prevent competition. This is when corn is in the V2/V3 growth stage (four to five leaves showing), or about 6 to 8 inches tall. Severe weed pressure, especially from grasses, during that period can impact corn yield potential significantly. Δ

