

# Scouting *Is* Important

*Monitor Cotton Throughout Summer  
To Stay Ahead Of Resistant Weeds*

**BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER**  
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

**PORTAGEVILLE, MO.**

An overview of the latest in cotton weed control was presented by Dr. Anthony Ohmes, regional agronomist for Mississippi County, at the Missouri Cotton Production meeting recently in Portageville, Mo. Ohmes also discussed glyphosate resistant weeds that are cropping up in the MidSouth. He also offered an update on some of the newer technologies that will be available.

"Cotton growers are familiar with the Liberty Link system in cotton, it's going to be available in soybeans for 2009 on a limited number of acres in the MidSouth, so some people might get to look at that in their soybean program," he said.

He also spoke about some things that are coming in the future on genetic-type systems.

"Researchers are looking at Dicamba resistant soybeans," Ohmes said.

He showed them some pictures of that weed control system, and it looks like a good fit for managing some of the resistant weeds that are appearing.

Basically, his talk was something that has been reiterated year after year: A thorough scouting is needed to control the weed seed population, either through herbicide management or through physical removal of the plant.

"So, the extension recommendation is just to scout often, spray in a timely manner, rotate modes of action, rotate crops as possible and then follow some basic general weed science principles that have always been there for any kind of resistance that has ever popped up throughout the history of herbicide management programs," he said.

Ohmes said no new weeds

have shown glyphosate resistance recently, however, the biggest concern in the Mid-South is the Palmer amaranth, and in the Midwest it's waterhemp.

"We're in a unique area here in the southeast region, we have both," he said. "Our dominant pigweed when you get to Portageville or Sikeston south is Palmer amaranth, but if you

from Benton north you run into more of the common waterhemp. So we have a mix and growers may have both in the same field. They are both pigweed species and we've got to manage those as best we can. But as far as other new weeds, no, not anything in large amounts. There have been some areas of johnsongrass that have showed up in the MidSouth that are resistant to glyphosate and that's definitely a concern; however, currently it is not as widespread as Palmer amaranth."

Palmer amaranth is a summer annual. It can produce high numbers of seed per plant, especially in good growing conditions where it can get very large if left unattended.

"They've estimated that a Palmer amaranth plant can produce anywhere from 250,000 to over 500,000 seeds on a female plant," Ohmes said. "Pollen flow in Palmer amaranth and waterhemp is known to move a pretty good distance and is another factor aiding the resistance movement."

The propagation of the Palmer amaranth is a survival mechanism.

"With summer annuals you also have emergence throughout the summer, all the way into fall and our falls are usually warm so we could have the potential of having seed production throughout the year," he added. "That's something you really need to monitor. If you're not using residuals and have a glyphosate-only program, which has no residuals, you might kill that first flush early in the season; if you spray the second flush and then quit, in cotton there's a lot of light that gets into the bottom of the canopy and there's not a lot of canopy closure. In cotton production you can have a third flush and that potentially can produce seed, so the scouting and monitoring throughout the summer is very important. Δ

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



**Discussing resistant weeds and new technologies that will be available, is Dr. Anthony Ohmes, Regional Agronomist for Mississippi County, Mo.**

Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

Distributed by  
**AGVENTURE**  
Link Directly To: **AgVENTURE**

**APACHE** by **GT**  
The #1 mechanical drive sprayer.

Link Directly To: **APACHE**