

Soybean Farmers Need To Plan Ahead For 2011 Pigweed Control

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Though most Arkansan soybean farmers have yet to harvest their 2010 crop, they should be making weed control plans for 2011, said Bob Scott, Extension weed specialist with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Pigweed resistant to glyphosate, also known as Roundup, is a major threat to soybean production, Scott said. "We really need to be thinking about a pigweed program for 2011, especially for Roundup Ready and conventional beans."

Scott said farmers should not waste Roundup by spraying on 4- or 5-inch pigweed to see whether or not the weed is resistant. "At that point you're too late to do anything about it if the weeds are resistant," he said.

"If you think you have a problem, you need to start out with a residual program up front," Scott said. "Really, the only post-emerge prod-

uct I recommend for pigweed is Flexstar."

Scott said farmers should spray Flexstar when pigweed height is 2 to 3 inches. "That's where we see optimum control," he said. "If it's 4 to 6 inches, you'll get some of them, but not all."

Instead of focusing on post-emerge weeds, farmers should concentrate on preparations to protect the 2011 crop, Scott said.

In putting together a weed control program, Scott recommends Prefix, which is Reflex and Dual combined: in his opinion, one of the best residual products on the market.

"I can't really recommend Prefix to you for Roundup Ready or Conventional beans, because if you use Prefix, you've used all the Flexstar you're allowed to use for a year," Scott said.

"Save Flexstar for early post-emerge weeds," Scott said. Farmers should instead plan on using pre-emerge herbicides such as Valor, Dual, Treflan, Prowl PPI, or Authority MTZ. Δ



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