The Future Of Grass Control

LSU Professor May Have Found A New Way

KRISTEN JOHNSON
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

CROWLEY, LA.

Dr. Eric Webster, a professor of Weed Sciences at Louisiana State University, has been working on grass control for two years at the Rice Research Station in Baton Rouge, La. Focusing on weed control for rice, in 2007 Webster's team concentrated on Permit, a weed control herbicide.

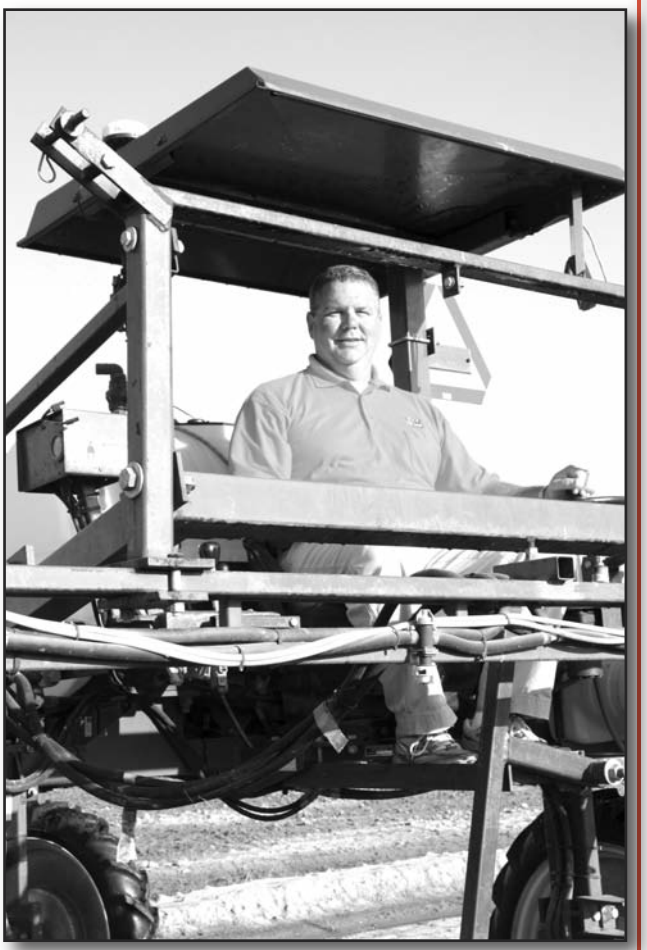
"One of the things that we've really concentrated on this last year was playing with Permit as a pre-emergence application on water seeded rice," said Webster, "what we saw was that we were getting some pretty good grass control which is something that we had never seen before."

According to Webster, Permit has historically been a broadleaf and nut-sedge product. "We put it on post-emergence but I have always put it out pre-emergence with my Command applications," stated Webster, "this has kind of helped me with my broadleaves and sedges through residual activity."

"I never notice the grass activity because I always had Command in the system. Last year, I left the Command out and noticed we were getting some broad-spectrum grass control. We probably have ten studies just looking at different timings of Permit and grass control," said Webster.

"We applied the Permit, anywhere from two weeks prior to planting to three days after planting all applied on water seeded rice," said Webster, "this year we are not getting as good of grass control as last year, but we feel like there is some suppression there and probably don't want to put on the label that you get complete control."

"I have found that Permit works better in the water seeded systems because you tend to keep the area wet," stated Webster, "I think that it works just a little better with the moisture." Δ



Focusing on weed control for rice is Dr. Eric Webster, a Professor of Weed Sciences at Louisiana State University Rice Research Station in Baton Rouge. Photo by John LaRose