

Weed Management Strategies

Yield Loss Can Be Measured In Inches Of Weed Growth

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Research done by Ron Krausz at the Belleville Research Center shows the amount of yield lost for every inch of weed growth. Krausz, researcher and lab manager for the Southern Illinois University at the Belleville Research Center, explained his results recently.

"If we let weeds compete in corn and soybeans to a certain stage we do lose profit," he asserted. "In soybeans, for every inch of weed growth that we get past eight inch weeds, we lose .7 bushels per acre, which at \$16 beans is \$11. In corn if we let weeds get past four inches, we lose 4.6 bushels per acre for every inch of weed growth. With today's prices of corn that's \$25 to \$28 dollars an acre, so it's very expensive!"

Krausz centered his presentation on weed management strategies and why that isn't easy.

"I'm trying to impress upon growers that weed resistance is probably the main reason it cannot be easy," he said. "A farmer just can't plant Roundup Ready crops and use glyphosate only because weed resistance has continued to spread throughout the United States and no one can afford not to take that seriously. We stand a chance of losing one of the most valuable resources we have in crop production which is glyphosate or Roundup. These are used to control not only weeds in season in Roundup Ready crops but also as a burndown herbicide."

He stressed fundamental weed control, and offered information on weed competition, weed resistance, how weeds emerge and when the crop's yield is determined.

"Hopefully, it will refresh growers' memories on the most effective time to control weeds in

their crop," he said. "By doing so, they'll not only hold down the weed resistance but they'll also maximize yield."

Growers often do not realize the losses because when they're not actually paying out money to anybody.

Ron Krausz, Researcher and Lab Manager for the Southern Illinois University at the Belleville Research Center, recently explained the amount of yield lost for every inch of weed growth. Photo by John LaRose, Jr.



"So they don't realize they're losing that kind of money," he said. "I'm sure if they did they would think more seriously about getting weeds under control at the proper time".

The bottom line, he said, is that farmers need to be protecting yield, not just spraying and praying trying to get through to harvest time.

"Weed control is definitely getting more complicated in the future than what it has been in the past 10 years since Roundup Ready crops have come out," he added. △