Agricultural Products

HatchTrak℠

May 17, 2004

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Insect Update Across Region

Reports of alfalfa weevil feeding and damage continue to move north and west across the region. Infestations can be found across a large majority of NE as well as western and NW Kansas and eastern CO. Most areas south of I-70 are at or near 1st cutting harvest. In those areas, continue to scout the second cutting regrowth for larva and adults feeding on the regrowth. It only takes a few days of heavy feeding to have a severe economic impact on alfalfa yield.

On alfalfa that is still at least 10 days or more from cutting, it is recommended to treat alfalfa weevil if populations are at 2-3 per stem or higher. Both Mustang Max at 2.5-3.0 oz or Furadan at 0.5 pint provide good options to provide good short term control to get the alfalfa to that first cutting harvest.

Cutworms continue to show up in spotted areas of eastern NE and KS. Dingy cutworm is predominate in most areas, with some reports of black cutworm as well. Cutworm activity should peak in the next 7-14 days then diminish as weather warms and the corn grows through the risk. SE Nebraska and NE Kansas continue to have areas with southern corn leaf beetle, stinkbugs, along with flea beetles in some fields. Stress to corn from frost damage during a recent cold snap followed by infestations from flea beetles may stress corn further. Capture, Mustang Max, and Furadan are all good options to control these foliar pests in corn.

Due to the dry weather, Pale Western Cutworm populations are higher in 2004 in areas of eastern CO, western KS and NE than in years past. Damage in occuring to both corn and wheat from SE CO into NW KS and SW Nebraska. PWC feeds below ground and can damage crops rapidly. Mustang Max at 2.5-3.0 oz is effective to control this pest in corn, wheat, dry beans, soybeans, sugarbeets under these dry conditions.

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Pale Western Cutworm

Postemergence Corn

Velvetleaf and waterhemp are common weeds emerging in many corn fields this year. It seem the very warm weather provided a good germination of these weeds early in the season. Both velvetleaf and waterhemp can germinate at multiple times through the season, but the early weeds that emerge with the crop have been shown to cause the greatest yield loss if allowed to compete with the crop. Aim provides the flexibility to tankmix with almost all post emergence herbicides to boost control of weeds like velvetleaf, waterhemp, morningglory, kochia, nightshade, pigweeds, Russian thistle and others. There are several early postemergence programs with Aim that provide growers with effective, economical, and safe options to control a host of broadleaves and grasses.

A combination of Aim at 0.5 oz + Atrazine at 0.5-1.0 lb is a very economical treatment to control a host of weeds. The addition of 3-4 oz of dicamba to that tankmix provides a very strong early season program to control a broadspectrum of the toughest weeds.

When using Aim on corn, remember to include NIS or COC. Aim is a contact herbicide, so coverage is critcal for success. Flat fan spray nozzles at 10 gpa minimum spray volume with medium size droplets ensure good spray coverage of the weeds. Crop response may increase when Aim is applied under high moisture conditions such as rainfall, cool, high humidity, heavy dew conditions. As with other post herbicides, under adverse weather conditions it is best to wait for drier, warmer conditions to minimize risk of excessive crop response. Aim is not translocated in the plant, so any leaf speckling or symptomology is rapidly outgrown and there is no long term affects on the plant as can occur with some systemic type products.

Aim works very well in sorghum with atrazine and 2,4-D and in proso millet with 2,4-D to control many weeds including pigweeds, kochia, velvetleaf and others.

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Sunflowers

Spartan recieved a full Section 3 federal label in early 2004 for sunflowers after several years of use under Section 18 exemptions in many states. Spartan provides excellent control of pigweeds, nightshades, kochia, Russian thistle, lambsquarter, waterhemp, and suppression of grasses. The label includes Preplant, Preemergence, Preplant incorporated, and Fall application uses. Follow the label for appropriate use rates for soil type, organic matter levels, and soil pH. Early preplant applications (7-30 days before planting) are recommended in many areas and have worked well for several years. It allows a greater chance of moisture for activation before weeds emerge. By controlling the weeds early, it reduces moisture usage by the weeds and stores more for the planted crop. Less crop response has been observed with EPP applications, especially on light soils with low OM and high pH. Spartan may be mixed with glyphosate, 2,4-D or other burndown herbicides for control of emerged weeds. Spartan may be tank mixed with a grass herbicide like pendamethalin, trifluralin, metolachlor to improve grass control. Spartan is labeled for both ground and aerial application.

Potatoes

Spartan also recieved a federal label for use in Potatoes for 2004. It should provide potato growers a valuable tool to provide excellent residual control small seeded broadleaves like nightshades, pigweeds, lambsquarter including ALS and triazine resistant biotypes. Follow the label directions for the appropriate use rate for the soil type and organic matter levels. Spartan should be applied to potatoes as a preemergence treatment following dragoff, but prior to potato emergence. Spartan has good water solubility so rainfall or irrigation will readily move a surface application into the soil to control germinating weeds. Spartan should not be applied once potatoes have emerged due to the potential for injury on exposed foliage. Spartan is labeled for ground, aerial, and chemigation applications and may be tankmixed with other soil applied herbicides for potatoes. Most potato varieties have shown excellent tolerance to Spartan. There are a few varieties of potatoes that have shown greater sensitivity to Spartan. Shepody, Snowden, Sangre can show greater symptomology and Spartan is not recommended on these. Consult your local dealer or FMC representative for further information and recommendations for Spartan.