

Southern Blacklands IPM Update – Volume 2, Issue 1
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Wheat:

With the good moisture we've enjoyed, wheat fields are mostly looking good as they continue to grow. There are still some fields that have some leaf and/or stripe rust but most are not that bad since many had a timely fungicide applied. Due to continued, moisture we have been receiving we need to be a little concerned about possible seed sprouting in the heads as the plants begin to mature. However, if we get into a drier weather pattern as plants reach maturity then we have less to worry about.

Fortunately this year we have not seen high numbers of Hessian fly in research studies conducted in Williamson, McLennan, and Hill Counties, like we have seen the last two years. Obviously this is a good thing for wheat growers. Since the Hessian fly presence is hard to predict, continued use of delayed planting date (mid-November to early December), and use of a good seed treatment like Gaucho, and use of a resistant variety will help to alleviate this problem.

CORN:

Corn is looking good now and recent rains will certainly help in increasing the crops yield potential. Hopefully you have after planting corn this year, you have used a good residual or preemergence product behind the planter to get your corn off to a good start.

I hope at this point, with corn getting some size to it, that you were able use a good residual herbicide with your POST application to your corn before it reached 30". This is especially true if you are certain that you have glyphosate resistant pigweeds or sunflowers in your corn field. Some timely applications with alternative modes of action to Roundup, and other glyphosates, will go a long way in combating resistant plants. Products like Liberty, Status, Laudis, Armezon Pro when properly used will control glyphosate resistant weeds such as Palmer amaranth. In addition, all of these products each have a different mode of action so it's a good idea to rotate these products out from year to year to help prevent herbicide resistance development. It is also a good idea to add an effective residual herbicide (Warrant, etc.) in the tankmix to extend your weed control further into the season. Of course, glyphosate products are still effective on some species and still make a good tankmix partner when needed on weeds that are susceptible to glyphosate, especially annual grassy weeds.

With regard to insects at this point, there are no major concerns. However, there are some corn leaf aphids further south that have increased in numbers. These can likely move northward into the Texas Blacklands so we need to be aware of that.

Sorghum:

Sorghum appears to be doing well across the area with no real insect concerns at this time. However, seed treatments are likely to start losing their effectiveness here in the near future so we need to monitor that. I've

heard a report that sorghum aphid numbers have been on the rise down south. However, this also includes varieties that are resistant to the aphid, although, levels in the resistant varieties are not high enough to warrant treatment.

There are a number of good products to use in grain sorghum that can be applied both preemergence and postemergence. Warrant, Dual Magnum, Outlook, and in a tank mix with atrazine are all good products to buy you some pretty good preemergence weed control early on. These may also be applied to sorghum up to 12" tall in order to extend your residual control to get the crop closer to having canopy closure to help shade out future weed flushes. (Keep in mind that the Dual Magnum labels states that if it is applied POST and alone it will be safe on sorghum). Since these are "PRE" products they need rain to activate them in the soil. If you don't get rain within 8 days then a cultivation with incorporate them until you do get a rain. Also, remember to follow all product labels and restrictions.

As mentioned above, if you know you have glyphosate resistant pigweed or sunflower where you have planted sorghum this year then take advantage of the products labeled in sorghum that will control these problematic weeds. For instance, Huskie or Huskie FX with atrazine will a good job of controlling not just pigweeds, waterhemp and sunflower, but annual morningglories as well, such as pitted and ivyleaf morningglory. These products will control these weeds **up to 4" in height**. There is something else to consider with using these products. After applying them, several days later you will notice some leaf burn on a portion of the sorghum leaves. This leaf burn will usually start to go way over some time and should not cause a yield reduction. Each farmer has to ask themselves what is it worth to control herbicide resistant weeds? Can you accept some injury in order to take care of these weeds? One way to lessen this leaf burn is to apply a 1:1 ratio of Huskie herbicide to liquid iron. For example, if you are going to use 14 oz of Huskie, then use 14 oz of liquid iron. Most distributors carry a 5% liquid iron that works just fine. Below is a statement on this "transient" leaf injury that came right off the Huskie label. These products can also be tankmixed with synthetic auxin herbicides like 2,4-d and dicamba to strengthen overall performance.

Statement on Huskie Label:

"PRECAUTIONS FOR HUSKIE HERBICIDE USE IN GRAIN SORGHUM • Transitory grain sorghum (to include grain and forage) leaf burn will occur after a Huskie Herbicide application. Do not apply Huskie Herbicide if transient early season crop injury is not acceptable."

In addition, if you are using one of the new sorghum technologies like **Inzen, Igrowth, or Double Team** sorghums, you have some good options to get POST control of grassy weeds.

Zest is the herbicide labeled in INZEN sorghum and will control several species like Browntop and Texas panicum, maximum height or diameter of 3". It also gets broadleaf signalgrass (max height/diameter 2") and large crabgrass (max height/diameter of 2"). Applications with Zest will have be very timely as you can see the height limitations on the label. ImiFlex herbicide is labeled for use in Igrowth sorghum and has both grass and broadleaf activity. Imiflex herbicide is an ALS inhibitor, but its in the IMI subclass of ALS inhibitor so it works alittle differently than other ALS products such Zest herbicide. Double Team sorghum has FirstAct as its labeled herbicide for use and is an ACCase inhibitor that only works on grassy weeds and does a great job in controlling them.

Please keep in mind that the stewardship requirements on using these new technologies is very detailed and very specific so pay close attention to all of these requirements.

Cotton – Early season cotton weed control options—

There are a number of options growers can use to manage weeds in the early season. If you know your fields history, and that you indeed have glyphosate (or Roundup resistant weeds) then you may also choose to plant one of the newer technologies available in cotton in order to better manage these resistant weeds. The two synthetic auxin technologies, Enlist(2,4-D) and XtendFlex (dicamba), when used properly can allow a farmer to manage glyphosate resistant weeds effectively. These products are also tolerant to both Roundup (glyphosate) and Liberty (glufosinate) to allow flexibility when deciding which would be better to use given field conditions, weed species, weed size, and density. It’s always important to remember that Roundup is more forgiving than Liberty when it comes to weed sizes at application. It is best to target 3” or less when using Liberty so that you ensure getting good coverage and control.

It is also important to remember that if you know you have at least some of your broadleaf weeds in your field(s) that survive an application of glyphosate, you must then decide what is your best option after that. Depending on the technology you have (Enlist or XtendFlex), you need to plan to begin spraying when the weeds are small so that, ideally, you can cover your acres before they get any larger than 3-4 inch. It is also always a good idea to rotate chemistries, ie, Enlist or XtendiMax or Engenia first, followed by a Liberty shot, and vice a versa. In addition, when you plan either an early post or mid-post application to cotton, you really should consider using a residual or preemerg tank mix partner so that you can extend your residual control of both grassy and broadleaf weeds until your crop can get some size and begin to shade out at least some of the future weeds that may or may not come up. This “Post” tank mix partner is a good idea so that you may have overlapping residuals since you have applied a preemergence application. Just remember, you must include a knockdown herbicide in tank mix with any residual herbicide. **Be sure to follow all product labels and restrictions** with the suggestions below as this table is a brief synopsis of such products.

Some beneficial treatments to consider in the early season are:

Product	Component(s)	Rate/acre per appl.	Timing	Number of App.'s
Sequence	Glyphosate + S-metolachlor	3.5 pt	PRE/POST	2 shots
Dual Magnum	S-metolachlor	1 pt	POST	1 shot
Tavium	Dicamba + S-metolachlor	3.53 pt	PRE/POST	2 shots
Warrant	Acetochlor	3 pts	PRE/POST	2 shots
Outlook	Dimethenamid	12 to 18 oz	POST	Max of 31 oz per season
Prowl H2O	Pendimethalin	1 to 2 pts	PRE/POST	POST – between 4 and 8 leaf
Roundup PowerMax 3	Glyphosate	30 oz	PRE/POST	Total 3.75 qts from all in crop through harvest
Generic – Glyphosate	Glyphosate	Multiple	PRE/POST	Refer to label
XtendiMax*	Dicamba	22 oz max	PRE/POST	Preplant/PRE – 44 oz total In crop –44 oz total
Engenia**	Dicamba	12.8 oz	PRE/POST	PRE/PREplant 12.8 oz In crop 12.8 (25.8 oz total)
Enlist DUO***	Glyphosate + 2,4-D choline	76 oz	PRE/POST	PRE – max 76 oz POST – Two max 76 oz apps
Enlist One****	2,4-D choline	2 pts	PRE/POST	PRE – max 2 pts POST – max 2 appl.
Liberty	Glufosinate	32 oz	PRE/POST	PRE/POST – 29 to 43 oz, max of 87 oz/yr

*refer to approved tank mixes with XtendiMax.

**refer to approved tank mixes with Engenia.

***refer to approved tank mixes with Enlist Duo.

****refer to approved tank mixes with Enlist One.

With regards to all spray applicators, one highly important thing to always remember is to make sure you are following all label restrictions and precautions. No one wants to have to deal with an off-label application because this can likely result in possible litigation. Read and understand the labels for the products you are using to avoid misapplication or off-label sprays that can not only hurt your own crop, but possibly your neighbors if you drift onto their crop.