# The Benefits of Preemergence Herbicides in Roundup Ready Soybean

# When Do Weeds Start To Reduce Soybean Yield?

Mark Loux Jeff Stachler Horticulture and Crop Science The Ohio State University http://agcrops.osu.edu/weeds

#### Bill Johnson Glenn Nice

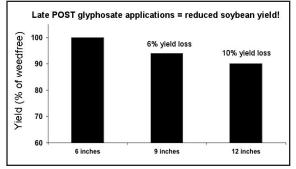
Purdue Extension Weed Science www.btny.purdue.edu/weedscience

For Free Herbicide Labels Go to

#### www.cdms.net or www.greenbook.net

Information listed here is based on research and outreach Extension programming at Purdue University, Ohio State University, and elsewhere. The use of trade names is for clarity to readers of this publication and does not imply endorsement of a particular brand nor does exclusion imply non-approval. Always consult herbicide labels for the most current and up-to-date precautions and restrictions. Copies, reproductions, or transcriptions of this document or its information must bear the statement "Produced and prepared by Purdue University or Ohio State University Extension Weed Science" unless approval is given by the author.

- Weed-crop competition reduces soybean yield if weeds are not controlled early.
- To maximize soybean yield, apply postemergence (POST) glyphosate when weeds are no more than 6 inches tall.
- In this example, weeds emerged with soybeans. Applying glyphosate when weeds were 9 or 12 inches tall resulted in 6 or 10% yield loss due to weed competition prior to control.



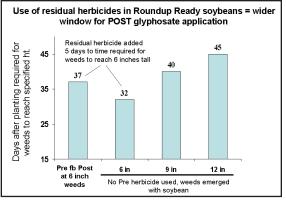
Data from eight studies conducted in west central OH in 2000-01.

## PRE herbicides add flexibility to the POST application window

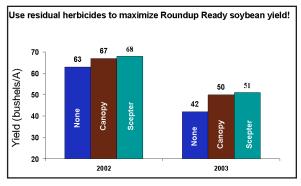
- PRE herbicides reduce early-season weed density and slow weed growth, which results in more flexibility in POST application timing.
- Smaller weeds are less competitive and easier to control!

## PRE herbicides can maximize Roundup Ready soybean yields

- PRE herbicides reduce early-season weed competition and improve control of tough weeds such as lambsquarters, waterhemp, and giant ragweed.
- PRE herbicides protect yield when weather or workload delays POST applications.
- In this example, use of PRE herbicides prior to POST glyphosate increased yield by 4 to 9 bushels/A, compared to POST glyphosate alone.



Data from two studies conducted in west central OH in 2000-01.



Data from two studies conducted in west central OH in 2002-03. Weeds were less than 6 inches tall at the time of POST glyphosate applications, with the exception of giant ragweed which was up to 10 inches tall in 2003







# Purdue University Extension // Ohio State University Extension

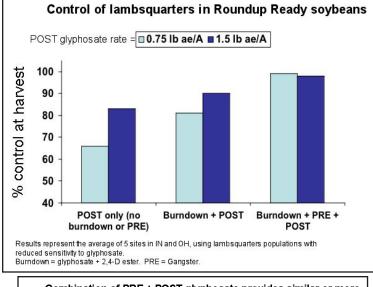
#### PRE herbicides improve control of tough weeds

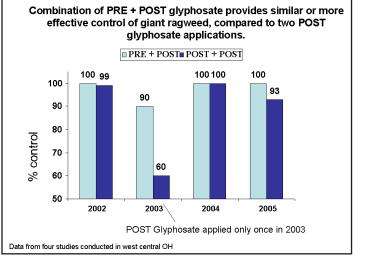
#### Lambsquarters

- Control with POST glyphosate can be affected by weed size, age, environmental conditions, and inherent sensitivity of the lambsquarters population.
- Lambsquarters is easily controlled by many PRE soybean herbicides.
- The example at right is from field research with lambsquarters populations with reduced sensitivity to glyphosate. POST glyphosate did not adequately control lambsquarters (>90% control), except where PRE herbicides were applied.

#### Giant ragweed

- Grows extremely fast, very competitive with soybean, and emerges well into the season.
- It is nearly impossible to time one POST glyphosate application to get season-long control and avoid early-season weed competition.
- In the example at right, use of PRE herbicide in combination with one POST glyphosate application resulted in control and yield comparable to two POST glyphosate applications in 2002, 2004-05.
- In 2003, PRE herbicide followed by one POST application was much more effective than one POST application of glyphosate (glyphosate was applied POST only once in 2003).





## The economics of PRE herbicides in no-tillage Roundup Ready Soybean

Tough and late-emerging weeds such as giant ragweed, waterhemp, and morningglory usually require two POST glyphosate applications or a combination of PRE herbicide followed by one POST glyphosate application. A late POST application (weeds greater than 6 to 8 inches tall) of glyphosate can result in yield loss of approximately 10%, or 4 to 6 bushels/A, and a loss in income of \$48 to \$72 per acre (assumes \$12/bushel soybeans). PRE herbicides protect against yield loss from early-season weed competition, potentially improving net return by \$36 to \$60/A after cost of PRE herbicide (\$12/A)

If the cost of a second POST glyphosate application is \$10 and the cost of the PRE herbicide is \$8 to \$12, the cost of a PRE is about the same as the cost of a second POST glyphosate application. There is essentially no additional application cost for PRE herbicide use in no-till, since most fields are already treated with preplant burndown herbicides, and the PRE reduces the need for a second POST glyphosate application.

### Bottom line - You can't afford not to use PRE herbicides!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.