

1/1/07 University of Missouri Extension Agronomy Update
New soybean preemergence herbicides for 2007 and corn-on-corn disease management
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As we move into 2007, new herbicide options will be available to producers. The soybean preemergence market will namely see change, with re-introductions of older chemistries. Sulfentrazone, the active ingredient in Authority and Spartan, will be re-introduced in combination with FirstRate, which contains the active ingredient of cloransulam. The sulfentrazone plus cloransulam combination will be marketed under the trade names of Sonic (Dow) and Authority First (FMC). Sonic and Authority First are identical products and are registered for preemergence use in soybean and should provide good control of waterhemp, common lambsquarters, morningglory species, ragweeds, and cocklebur. Another re-introduction into the soybean preemergence market is Canopy. This Canopy formulation contains chlorimuron (Classic) plus metribuzin (Sencor). It is important to note that Canopy EX is another DuPont product containing chlorimuron (Classic) but is namely promoted for winter annual weed control in the fall-applied market, because Canopy EX includes the herbicide Express (tribenuron). Regarding the re-introduction of Canopy (chlorimuron + metribuzin), MU Weed Scientist, Kevin Bradley, notes that Canopy may be applied at planting or up to 45 days preplant and provides residual control of a number of small seeded grass and broadleaf weeds.

On another note, as interest in ethanol production and corn-on-corn continues to increase, corn-on-corn acreage will likely increase throughout the Midwest, including Missouri, in 2007. Many of the common corn diseases are caused by pathogens that survive in infested corn residue and therefore, corn-on-corn has greater potential for disease development than first year corn. Tillage of the corn residue will reduce the amount of inoculum; however MU plant pathologist, Laura Sweets, notes other steps that should be taken when growing corn-on-corn. Selection of disease-resistant hybrids is important, especially in reduced tillage systems. Producers should maintain records of which diseases have been problems in individual fields and choose hybrids with resistance to those particular diseases. The predominant corn foliage diseases in Missouri survive in infested residue and spores are then produced during moist periods the following season. Monitoring of disease development should occur frequently throughout the growing season, with a foliar fungicide application made at the onset of disease development if warranted. Once foliar diseases become well established, the benefit of a fungicide application is likely minimal.

For those involved with custom work, University of Missouri Extension recently released the 2006 Guide on Custom Rates for Farm Services in Missouri. The guide compiles information obtained from a statewide survey of custom rates. Farmers, agribusiness firms, aerial applicators, and land improvement contractors were surveyed as to rates they were actually charging for custom services – excluding the cost of material being applied. The 2006 Custom Rates Guide is available through your local University of Missouri Extension office or can be accessed online at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/explorepdf/agguides/agecon/G00302.pdf>