

AGROVANTAGE® PRODUCTS

The Crop Management System of Champions

July 2020



CONKLIN CUSTOMER CONNECTION

THE LATEST IN AGROVANTAGE SYSTEM NEWS

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DICAMBA?

Using AgroVantage System Products to Control Weed Populations

As any farmer knows, weed pressure and competition is one of the largest yield-robbars that a crop can face. For generations, farmers have relied on herbicides to control weed populations. With the development of Roundup Ready® genetics in the 90s, farmers greatly benefited from the ability to now use Roundup on their crops, a non-selective herbicide that was previously known for killing almost any weed and crop.

This led to a period in agriculture when growers overly relied on glyphosate, or Roundup, reducing the use of other common herbicides. Generations of over-reliance on glyphosate caused the widespread herbicide resistance issues we are seeing today in which several weeds, such as Waterhemp, Ragweed, and Marestail, can no longer be controlled by glyphosate alone, making weed control again a large issue facing American farmers.

Similar to how Roundup Ready crops were developed in the 90s, dicamba-resistant crops, such as Roundup Ready Xtend® soybeans and cotton, were developed so herbicides could be applied to such crops without the likelihood of severely hurting the crop, much as it would with standard genetics. This gave farmers a pivotal tool for controlling weed populations that can no longer be controlled by Roundup, leading to widespread adoption and use by growers facing weed control issues.

However, there were some negative consequences associated with the widespread adoption and use of dicamba. Shortly after its adoption and use as a post-emergence herbicide, it was common

for farmers to experience issues with drifting. Dicamba sprayed on one field could volatilize and move miles in the atmosphere, eventually settling on crops that could not tolerate that herbicide. This led to hundreds of lawsuits where some growers lost entire orchards, vineyards, and crop fields. A recent court ruling has caused the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove the registration of these dicamba-based herbicides, such as Roundup Xtendimax® and DuPont™ FeXapan®, effectively making them illegal to purchase and use. Chemical producers, such as Dow® and Bayer®, are in the process of attempting to re-register these herbicides with the EPA, but it is uncertain whether or not they will be successful in bringing these products back to the market.

With the loss of a useful tool for combating herbicide resistance, growers are once again faced with the challenge of controlling tough-to-kill weed populations. Some recommended practices include crop and herbicide rotation, residual herbicides that inhibit weed emergence, and even cover crops. One commonly overlooked aspect of weed control and suppression are the adjuvants that are mixed with herbicides to improve their performance.

The Conklin AgroVantage System offers several adjuvant products that can help herbicides kill weeds and even prevent herbicide resistance, which can be brought on when weeds are exposed to an herbicide, but with bad coverage and penetration or reduced activity due to an improper pH of spray solution.

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Wex® Multi-purpose Wetting Agent with NRA® (nutrient-related action) improves herbicide coverage and penetration. Wex is classified as an NIS (non-ionic surfactant), a type of adjuvant that when combined with herbicides will increase spray penetration into the leaf.

This ensures that the weeds take up or absorb the herbicide into the tissue, rather than sitting on top of the leaves. Wex is recommended for pre-plant herbicide applications for tough-to-kill weeds. This product is typically used in pre-emerge applications.

Rain Fast® Surfactant/Wetting Agent is also classified as an NIS that increases herbicide penetration. It is a 100%-active ingredient NIS, exceeding the minimum requirements that are listed on several herbicide labels. It works very similarly to Wex in that it will help herbicides move into leaves, where they can be effective in killing weeds and protect herbicides from being washed away by rain. Rain Fast is typically used in post-emerge applications.

Bulls Eye® Drift Retardant/Deposition Aid is ideal when spraying on a windy day. Bulls Eye reduces drift and off-target movement, keeping herbicides where they are intended, preventing costly drift issues. Bulls Eye also helps to carry the spray deeper in the canopy to the hard-to-reach weeds in between rows.

Home Run® Methylated Soy Adjuvant (MSO) is for use with herbicides that recommend a crop oil to increase herbicide performance. Home Run maximizes herbicide activity under low-humidity and high-temperatures conditions.

Kombind® Compatibility Agent/Acidifier/Buffer can help lower water pH to ideal levels for herbicide performance. Most herbicides perform much better at the correct, slightly acidic pH listed on the product label. Kombind also improves blending of herbicides, ensuring an even mixture of active ingredients.

Learn more about these and the complete line of Conklin AgroVantage System products today: www.conklin.com/agrovantage-system

