

WIDESPREAD USE OF MANURE RATCHETS UP WEED PRESSURE



Nebraska farm and livestock operator Todd Went believes in liberal use of manure on his corn and soybean ground, but he acknowledges that

this practice can make weed control especially challenging.

The fact that corn and soybeans are grown in a no-till system makes the weed and grass control even more important, as Went can't rely on cold steel – either preplant or from in-crop cultivations – to control his biggest problems, which include waterhemp, pigweed, buttonweed and lambsquarter.

Located about 80 miles west of Omaha near Creston, Nebraska, Went Farms also includes a sizeable livestock operation, with a 500-head cow-calf finishing yard and a 1,300-head feed-to-finish swine operation. Not surprisingly, Went believes in putting all that rich manure to good use.

“Although manure is an excellent fertilizer and builds up the ground nicely, it also drives up our weed and grass pressure,” the Nebraska farm operator explains. “We try to be proactive with crop rotation and use of different herbicide chemistries to ensure the best possible weed control and at the same time minimize the chance of herbicide weed resistance developing on our farm.”

Though there are no glyphosate-resistant weeds on Went's farm, he nonetheless feels that it is important to take preventive steps that can make a difference. Half of his corn acres were planted with the Roundup Ready® Corn 2 System this season. Most corn acres get a burndown herbicide treatment before planting. Went also uses a residual herbicide

on much of his corn ground, applying the Roundup Ready Rate™ of Harness® Xtra after the corn is planted, but before it emerges.

“This residual herbicide treatment buys us some time before we come in with our over-the-top applications of Roundup® agricultural herbicides in Roundup Ready Corn 2,” Went says. “We usually get by with one over-the-top application of glyphosate, which is usually applied when corn is about knee high.”

Went is also a stickler for using full, labeled rates of Roundup herbicides. “This herbicide is so economical to use, I don't understand why a farmer would cut his Roundup rate just to save 50 cents per acre,” he says.

Follow the guidelines below to minimize the risk of the development of glyphosate-resistant weeds in Roundup Ready® Soybeans and Roundup Ready Corn 2:

1. Start clean and control weeds early.
2. Use Roundup Ready® technology as your foundation.
3. Add other herbicides and cultural practices where appropriate as part of the Roundup Ready System.
4. Use the right rate at the right time.
5. Control weeds throughout the season and reduce the weed seed bank.

To help gauge your risk of developing glyphosate-resistant weeds on a field-by-field basis, visit www.weedtool.com, and in a few easy steps find ways to better manage the risk.

Always read and follow pesticide label directions. Roundup Ready® crops contain Roundup Ready genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® agricultural herbicides. Roundup agricultural herbicides will kill plants that are not glyphosate tolerant. Harness® Xtra is a restricted-use pesticide and is not registered in all states. The distribution, sale or use of an unregistered pesticide is a violation of federal and state law and is strictly prohibited. Harness®, Roundup®, Roundup Ready® and Roundup Ready Rate® are trademarks of Monsanto Technology, LLC. ©2007 Monsanto Company. [31730-44 HPJ JP 11/19/07]

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