



The Ag Quarterly

News for Southern Illinois Farm Families

Spring 2009

Spray Drift Reminders

Dennis Epplin, crop systems educator

Yes, we have certainly talked and written about spray drift on many previous occasions, however, it remains an important topic. The new crop season is here, and all applicators need to be aware of the impact that herbicide drift can cause to off-target plants and crops.

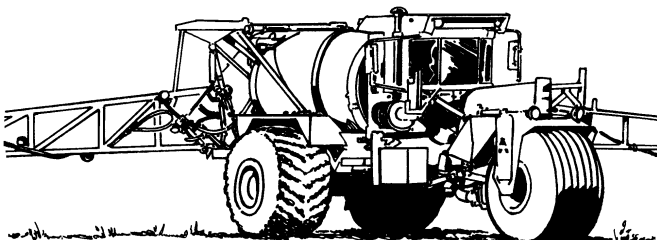
Herbicide drift continues to be the most common complaint received by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. There were 115 formal complaints recorded by the Department last year. The Illinois Pesticide Misuse Case Summary for 2008 can be found in the January/February issue of the Illinois Pesticide Review, http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/ipr/i5774_829.html.

The growth of specialty crop farms—vegetables, grapes and other fruits—requires good pesticide application management. While these specialty crop growers are aware that corn and soybean fields will be sprayed at this time of the season, it is the responsibility of those making applications to ag crops to prevent off-target pesticide movement.

Before making a pesticide application, remember to check the current and forecasted weather conditions. Wind speed and direction are major considerations. Also, check your application equipment. Do you have the correct nozzle type, size, orientation, pressure, and boom height? Check your intended pesticide or tank mix. Have you obtained the correct product formulations for both efficacy and minimizing drift? Are you using the proper adjuvants and drift control additives, if needed? Bryan Young, SIU Carbondale, has an excellent publication on adjuvants: <http://www.herbicide-adjuvants.com/>.

We will probably never eliminate drift or have ideal spraying conditions, but everyone can continue to improve. A little extra caution is

appropriate when neighbors have sensitive plants or when high-value specialty crops are nearby.



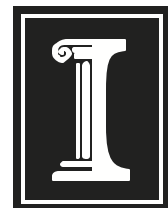
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Plan Ahead to Combat Weed Resistance

Robert Bellm, crop systems educator

The best time to start combating herbicide resistant weeds is before the crop seed ever goes into the ground. This is especially true for soybeans, where the number of effective alternative herbicides is more limited than what is available for use in corn.

The introduction of glyphosate resistant soybeans 15 years ago led to revolutionary changes in the ways weeds are controlled in that crop. Prior to that introduction, multiple herbicide chemistries and sites of action were applied to soybean, using both pre-emergence and post-emergence application timings.

Today, however, more than 80 percent of the total soybean acres are planted to glyphosate resistant varieties, with growers often relying on only that single post-emergence herbicide to control both broadleaf and grass weed species.

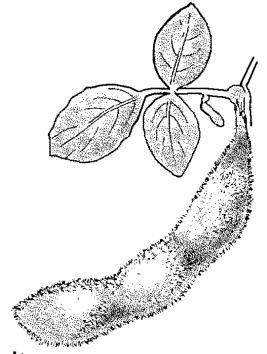
Illinois currently has two broadleaf weed species with documented resistance to glyphosate: horseweed (often called marestail) and waterhemp. Waterhemp is likely to become the more serious issue, since it germinates later in the growing season and is less apt to be controlled by tillage before planting. If waterhemp has developed a glyphosate resistant biotype in your field, and you rely solely on a glyphosate herbicide program, by the time you discover it your rescue alternatives are extremely limited. Even worse, you may find out that the weed has developed resistance to your rescue herbicide as well, leaving you with no control options at that point.

Advance planning, the use of certain soil-applied herbicides in addition to glyphosate, and proper post-emergence application timing can greatly reduce your risk of suffering major yield losses

caused by lack of weed control due to herbicide resistance. Soil-applied herbicides won't give season-long weed control, but they do allow the crop to become established without early weed competition.

Application of glyphosate before waterhemp reaches 6 inches in height should effectively control susceptible biotypes. Careful field scouting after the glyphosate application will tell you if resistant biotypes may be present, allowing time to apply a rescue application of a different herbicide site of action if needed.

The fact sheet, *Management of Glyphosate-Resistant Waterhemp in Soybean*, can be downloaded from the U of I Weed Science website at <http://weeds.cropsi.illinois.edu/>



Ag Programs Scheduled at Ewing and SIU

The tentative **Ewing Field Day** schedule has been set for 2009. Field days will be **June 11** and **September 10**. Tours both days start at 9 A.M. This year marks the centennial observance for Ewing Field. University of Illinois received the deed from Ewing College on March 12, 1909.

If you have not yet picked up a copy of the 2008 Ewing Summary Report, copies are available at most county Extension offices and online, <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regions/ag/crops/EwingSummary2008.pdf>

The SIU Fifth Annual **Agriculture Industry Day** is set for April 17 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. Visit www.coas.siu.edu for details.

Your help is needed!!

The survey will be available until April 17th.



for this on our website!

monroe.extension.uiuc.edu

Together We Can

Click **Tell Us** and complete a survey that helps Extension know what you need to make your life better, healthier, safer and more profitable.
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Tell Us about your interests and educational needs by completing this survey. University of Illinois Extension staff will appreciate and use the information to direct their efforts to provide reliable research information.

Note: If you don't have access to a computer, contact your local Extension office for a paper copy of the survey by call 618-939-3434 or stop by the office to complete a paper copy of a survey.

HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS

Warm Season Vegetable Gardening Telenet,

April 16.....7 p.m.

Monroe County Annex Building, Waterloo

Sweet corn, green beans, tomatoes.....Growing your own produce is rewarding, healthy, and economical. Learn how to plan, plant, and care for your summer veggies.

Fee: \$5/person



Buy Local, Eat Healthy Telenet, April 28....1 p.m. or April 30....7 p.m.

Monroe County Annex Building, Waterloo

Illinois growers offer a wide array of fresh, locally-grown produce. The key is to know when it is in season. Find out when fresh produce is at its peak so that you can mark your calendar and visit farmers' markets and roadside stands. Fee: \$5/person

Twilight Nursery Tour, May 4.....6:30 p.m.

Schaefer Farms Nursery on Kaskaskia Road, Waterloo

Get ready for spring planting! David Robson, University of Illinois Extension Educator in Horticulture will discuss how & where to best use plants in the home landscape through a walking tour of the nursery. Rain or Shine

Building a Basic Water Garden Telenet, May 121 p.m. or May 14....7 p.m.

Monroe County Annex Building, Waterloo

Starting with site selection and ending with the serenity of a water garden, this program offers step by step instructions on how to build a backyard water garden. Fee: \$5/person

Monroe County Garden Tour, June 13.....10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tour 6 Monroe County home garden sites. Rain or Shine. Fee: \$10/person in advance, \$12/person the day of the tour.

Celebrate Illinois' Stretch of the Ozarks

Festival of the Bluffs

A nature festival
Co-hosted by IDNR & Clifftop

Saturday, May 16th
9am-4pm

Cedar Bluff Park, Village of Fufts,
Monroe County, IL

- Interpretive hikes, at Fufts Hill Prairie National Natural Landmark & Kidd Lake Marsh State Natural Area: *Stunning views, awesome bluffs, dazzling wildflowers—stretch your senses!*
- Natural History Demonstrations & Displays: *hoot with an owl, stare with a snake, talk with turtles—stretch your senses!*
- Presentations on Conservation & Land Stewardship: *learn about good plants and evil invaders...find out how to make a prairie...how to attract birds and butterflies—stretch your mind!*

Stretch your nature:
Native plant sales by Missouri
Wildflowers Nursery
Arts, Crafts and Book Sales
Food, Music and Entertainment



\$2 parking
donation
requested.

www.clifftopalliance.org



Resolve To Be Ready in 2009

Individual planning is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness.

Resolve To Be Ready in 2009 is a nationwide effort designed to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies.

Can you list the actual cash value of EVERY item in your home? Garage? On the Farm?

You may be asked to make such a list after a disaster! A wise choice is to make that list (called a household inventory) before a disaster occurs. An inventory can also provide some excellent information for deciding how much insurance to purchase. A household inventory is available on this website for you to download and complete:

<http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~disaster/prep.html>

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

If you need special dietary or disability accommodations to participate in any programs listed in this newsletter, please contact your local U of I Extension office.

Ethanol and Global Warming: What the Research Says

Mike Plumer, natural resources educator

The concern about carbon footprints has been escalating during the past six months. The concern is that ethanol production and farming practices are contributing to global warming. The problem is most of the agency information used to develop the global warming models is not current nor does it use the latest research.

University of Illinois, University of Nebraska, Ohio State University and others are just now releasing research results that will have a major impact on how the carbon footprint is determined. In agriculture, many things are included in the calculations: tillage practices (any tillage releases carbon),

number of trips over the field, the type and amount of fertilizer used, nitrogen rate and application timing (low rates, injected, side-dressed is best), efficiency of equipment, grain drying practices, yield of crops/acre, amount of fuel used per acre, use of cover crops, CRP acres, irrigation (less is best), and efficiency in fertilizer use.

Some of the research has shown farming is far more efficient than the agencies thought. In fact, Nebraska research showed that corn ethanol production had 48 percent lower greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline production. U of I data has shown that there is an energy gain in ethanol

production and that land use is unchanged, countering the argument that farmers are bringing new, environmentally sensitive land into production.

Our southern Illinois no-till study has also shown that more carbon is sequestered than what the model used. After changing from tillage to no-till, plots accumulated 39,724 pounds of carbon per acre over a 12-year period. Our continuous no-till accumulated 44,257 pounds of carbon per acre over the 12 years, from the 23rd to 35th year of continuous no-till. The use of cover crops has shown that even more carbon can be captured. Stay tuned . . .