

Rice, January 19, 2001
STAM + COMMAND
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When we started working with Command on rice we wondered if it would work in a Stam + Residual, tank-mix scenario. Prowl, Bolero and Facet already work well as residual partners where Stam kills what's there and the mix partner stops new stuff from coming up. Why wouldn't Command work in that scenario?

FMC and EPA have been concerned that Command + Stam mixes could create a temptation to apply Command aerially- even though we spray lots of Stam with ground equipment in Missouri. The label we just saw states that Command may be applied to 1-to 2-leaf rice with the suggestion of a POST-tank mix if grass is emerged.

In our research, we have been looking at the 2- to 3-leaf barnyardgrass window. The weed control has been as good as that from other residual tank mixes. Command is basically a grass herbicide, so this program could allow broadleaf weeds to germinate- but the same thing can be said about Prowl. We usually don't see broadleaf problems with Prowl and Command as the Stam in the mixture controls the biggest flush. If a additional broadleaf weeds emerge, they can usually be controlled cheaply.

The big question is if Command, applied DIRECTLY to rice leaves, will cause more injury. In our research, rice has defiantly been whiter when we apply Command + Stam foliarly than when Command is used PRE. It also stays whiter longer. We have not observed any yield reduction from label-rate applications.

Regardless of how it's applied, Command probably doesn't have a double-rate safety margin, but several other rice herbicides have similar crop safety. Overlaps, dress ups and double ups need to be limited with these herbicides. A Stam-tank mix is a nice option; however, Command's best fit is preemergence. That's the easiest, cheapest and most reliable way to use the product.