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## **HERBICIDE RESISTANCE GROWING- KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN**

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Apparently there is a new weed that's not responding to Roundup like its supposed to. The current list includes horseweed (mare's tail) in the Northeast US, waterhemp in Missouri, goosegrass in South America and ryegrass in Australia and California. Last summer we saw lots of goosegrass in our Roundup Ready cotton plots, but we're sure it came from late emergence. Nevertheless- it's an example of mother nature foiling our hottest new technology.

Weed folks have been warning growers to be careful with how they use Roundup. Roundup beans, and cotton, and corn and no-till give farmers lots of opportunities to use Roundup or many of the other new glyphosate-based products. Roundup, itself, is not a resistance-prone herbicide. However, Roundup Roundup Roundup Roundup is a resistance-prone use pattern. What happens when you mix a NON-resistance-prone herbicide with a resistance-prone use pattern. USUALLY nothing. Usually is the key word- weeds resistant to things like 2,4-D indicate the significance of the "Never say never" rule.

Two important things need to be said in defense of Roundup: One: The resistance potential is a lot worse if you are selling an alternative product. Secondly, we need to be sure we don't forget about all of the other herbicides that we might be using without a good rotation. Since Roundup has become available, ALS-resistant pigweed and Facet-resistant barnyardgrass have been found in nearby states- indicating that we should have been watching those just as much.

Whether it's Roundup or completely different chemistry- the best answer is for growers to keep their eyes open. Unfortunately, the current economic situation may take precedence over herbicide rotation. If a patch of weeds that SHOULD NORMALLY BE CONTROLLED isn't acting right- or worse yet- seems to have spread since last year- do something quick. Contact an expert and see what you can do about hoeing the patch out. If you are in a resistance-prone use pattern- do what you can to introduce other chemistry or even cold-hard steel. Again, seek expert help- we still have a lot of ALS and tank mix chemistry that can complicate things result in lousy rotations if you're not careful.