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CLINCHER FOR GRASS CONTROL IN RICE

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Three new weed control options should be available for rice producers in 2002:

Clearfield/Newpath, Regiment and Clincher. Clearfield/Newpath and red rice control have stolen most headlines. We have also talked about Regiment, which was just registered; however, things have been quieter about Clincher.

Clincher is a postemergence, grass-only herbicide from Dow, and its activity is similar to Ricestar's. Clincher has very good crop safety, we have tested several double-rate treatments and saw no rice response. Weed control has been similar to Ricestar- grass needs to be small and actively growing. The propanil rules work very well for Clincher: Grass should be 2-3 leaf or smaller, and dry weather and/or temperature extremes can reduce control. Control of sprangletop and propanil-resistant barnyardgrass has been good.

Clincher has been sold in other countries for numerous years and has developed two distinct niches there: Early postemergence grass control and post-flood grass salvage. Our research, along with most other Mid-South University programs has confirmed, that during the pre-flood stage, early applications are required otherwise grass will not be controlled. However, after the flood has been applied, the activity can be much greater and larger grass can be controlled. Unfortunately, salvage applications with all herbicides sometimes fail and we've seen this with Clincher too.

A major fit for Clincher will be rice in drift-sensitive areas. Since it is a grass-only herbicide, it has no effect on cotton or soybeans. However, in a drift scenario, it can injure milo and corn. Also, Clincher will require that growers do something else for broadleaf and sedge control and in many cases, the tank mix partner may be injurious to cotton or soybeans.

For broadleaves, the Dow folks will be pushing Grandstand mixes and programs- since both of those herbicides are theirs. Those programs have worked well in our trials. Also, Dow has now acquired Rohm & Haas's product "Stam". This is a positive move, as Stam and Clincher could have been positioned as competing products. Instead, Dow will work to fit these products together. Many fields could benefit from all three herbicides.

There are other herbicides that could be mixed with Clincher; however, growers should be aware that grass herbicides like Clincher and Ricestar are often antagonized by broadleaf herbicides. To date, research has shown Permit to be especially antagonistic to Clincher. This is unfortunate since Clincher has no nutsedge activity. The jury is still out on tank mixtures with other compounds- antagonism has been observed in some instances, but not in others.