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## **CORN WEED TRIALS**

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Mid South corn farmers have a fairly good problem- deciding among several good weed control programs. The big news for 2002 has been the introduction of Syngenta's herbicide Callisto. We continue to see exceptionally good broadleaf activity from pre and postemergence applications. The biggest downside to Callisto is that Syngenta has another reasonably good broadleaf herbicide named atrazine. Callisto is not likely to be sold as a preemergence herbicide; however, we have some premixes with Dual and atrazine. All of these are looking good.

DuPonts new "version" of Basis Gold, Steadfast, is looking good in a number of programs. When it's mixed with atrazine it becomes more or less the same as Basis Gold and is performing similarly. These products have two good keys: 1) Things always look good with Atrazine and 2) the "Matrix" or "rimsulfuron" and Accent combine into a very good annual grass herbicide as well as controlling broadleaf weeds.

DuPont and Syngenta are both battling and cooperating over their products. Our Steadfast or Basis Gold programs combined with Callisto look very good. There isn't any magic there except that two good herbicides mixed together usually makes things "more better". In fact, Basis Gold plus Callisto actually represents four different active ingredients.

Aventis/Bayer has a new herbicide called Option. It is chemically related to Accent and is doing a good job controlling both grass and broadleaf weeds. We are seeing some breakthroughs on Palmer pigweed- which we usually do see with ALS-type chemistry.

Many of our programs include some Banvel, Clarity or Distinct stuck in here and there. "Banvel" herbicides do an outstanding job of rounding out broadleaf weed control. Of course, the old standby Marksman (Banvel plus atrazine) is still hard to beat. Also, the Monsanto folks have a dicamba + Permit product (Yukon) that offers broadleaf and nutsedge control.

Our Roundup Ready corn test has many good looking programs. Corn canopies are a little more open and atrazine is cheap. Consequently, our best programs include Roundup and atrazine. Our favorite is a full-rate tank mixture of Roundup and atrazine, early postemergence. It has been hard to beat. Roundup also offers "free" control of some of our most troublesome species such as johnsongrass and broadleaf signalgrass. We haven't tested all of the generics on corn; but Touchdown IQ has performed similarly to Roundup UltraMax.

On the other end of the spectrum, there are some economical standbys that can't be beat. Our plots confirm what growers in Mississippi County Missouri have found- Lasso plus Atrazine followed by 2,4-D is a pretty good program. But don't forget- those guys are lucky and have no cotton for the 2,4-D to damage. And, don't forget that 2,4-D can cause some ugly crop response if you're not careful.

Although we have a lot of good programs, season-long weed control is still a problem. Irrigation- especially furrow irrigation, wears out herbicides and stimulates weeds. Corn starts drying down and lets sunlight hit the soil when it's still hot and moist. Because of these problems, it's impossible to have a perfectly clean field at harvest. You still may have to plan ahead on a harvest aid application; however, hopefully, your program will leave you with a tolerable level of weed infestation at harvest.