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## **CORN WEED CONTROL- SPRAY A BUNCH OF STUFF**

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In the last few years, there has been a steady stream of new corn products. The new products usually represent package mixes of older products. Because of this, the bottom line has changed very little- a corn weed control program usually involves spraying four or more individual active ingredients, and eventually getting good weed control.

Atrazine remains as one of the most effective and economical herbicides ever invented. Regardless of the new product- atrazine is usually in there somewhere and needs to remain. Atrazine is unmatched for economical, long lasting, broadleaf control.

Callisto did very well in its first year. Callisto is a lot like atrazine: It works both PRE and POST and is stronger on broadleaf weeds. With grasses, it provides no control of foxtail, mediocre control of crabgrass, but is pretty good on broadleaf signalgrass. Callisto probably should not be used as a stand-alone signalgrass control; however, it can improve existing programs.

With many herbicides, a standard recommendation is to add some atrazine. That recommendation often throws up a red flag: atrazine makes weak herbicides look good and you have to be careful that the tank-mix partner isn't getting a free ride. Guess what- the standard Callisto recommendation is to add some atrazine. However, this case is different: Callisto is strong by itself. Adding a second, good, cheap herbicide simply makes it better.

DuPont had a successful swap of Steadfast for Basis Gold. The two products are more alike than different. Again, atrazine is key to making this program strong. Basis Gold came with its own atrazine and in most cases you should add atrazine back to Steadfast. Like Callisto, Steadfast is bringing a lot to the program, and isn't hiding behind the atrazine. The key contrast between Callisto and Steadfast is that Callisto is stronger on broadleaf weeds and Steadfast is stronger on grass weeds.

So- what about mixing Callisto and Steadfast? That was a popular choice in 2002 and its performance was good in our research. Syngenta people think that the DuPont program uses too little Callisto and the DuPont people think that the Syngenta program uses too little Steadfast. We've tried both ratios and it's hard to say that one is better than the other.

If I had lots of johnsongrass or crabgrass, I'd lean more towards the Steadfast-heavy mixes and if I had bigger broadleaf problems, I'd lean more towards the Callisto-heavy mixes. Broadleaf signalgrass?-make that decision based on which rep gave you the coolest cap. In any case, you're spraying three active ingredients so you might control a few weeds, and don't forget, a little atrazine won't hurt.

Aim continues to be popular. Aim, by itself, is a fairly weak herbicide and is one where atrazine

is needed to make it fly. However, Aim does add control to several key weeds- Aim will improve the postemergence control of morningglory, velvetleaf and pigweeds.

We've been having good results in our Roundup Ready corn. In tests we've done with the University of Tennessee we've decided that Roundup Corn is very much like Roundup beans. The benefits are the same- control of bigger weeds, excellent, low cost control of annual and perennial grasses, simplicity and drift safety when you neighbor sprays glyphosate. The key difference with Roundup corn is that atrazine is just as cheap as Roundup and has lot's of residual activity. The bottom line- Roundup alone is good; but, atrazine (PRE or POST), makes it better. Most programs suggest an atrazine-grass premix as the preemerge, but with Roundup's great grass activity, we haven't seen that the pre grass herbicide added much.