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NEW RICE CHEMICALS ARE TOOLS, NOT PROGRAMS

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The new rice chemistry is generating lots of talk, and occasionally some scary ideas. Please keep in mind that all of these new herbicides need to be **ADDED TO** weed control **PROGRAMS**, they are **NOT STAND ALONE** products.

Clincher had a great 2002- in spite of a Memorial Day availability date. Most Clincher was used as a post-flood clean up application. But Clincher has a second distinct use pattern- early postemergence. The herbicide behaves very differently in these two windows. While it has "Roundup-type" power on grasses in the flood, it is much weaker when the ground is dry. In an early **POST** scenario, timing must precisely target small, actively growing grasses. The rules we've always used for propanil work very well with Clincher: 2 to 3 leaf grass, not too hot, not too cold. However, the need for good soil moisture is twice as important with Clincher.

With small, actively growing weeds, Clincher will control barnyardgrass, sprangletop and fall panicum. Broadleaf weed control is another issue. Clincher is a grass-only herbicide, and broadleaf tank mixes are always an antagonism concern. Antagonism is a moving target. In our research, one herbicide antagonizes Clincher one time and another antagonizes it another. Right now, there are no labeled mixes with broadleaf herbicides except for Facet. We have had success with tank mixes of some purely-broadleaf herbicides, but can't guarantee that they won't antagonize things on occasion. For that reason, Dow is discouraging broadleaf tank mixtures, including their own herbicide Grandstand.

There are many ways Clincher can be used so you will hearing about all sorts of scenarios. Dow is thinking about promoting the residual tank mix partners Command, Prowl/Pendimax and Facet. These programs are fundamentally the same as Propanil plus Command, Prowl or Facet. In these programs, propanil or Clincher controls what's there and the residual herbicide stops new stuff from coming up afterwards. Bolero is an exception with Clincher since it has been antagonistic. Command followed by Clincher also has potential; however, this will usually require a third, broadleaf treatment.

Clincher one time and propanil the next is another possible sequential program. Which should go first or where should you use just Clincher or just propanil? There is no blanket answer; however, Clincher's key attributes are propanil resistance, sprangletop and fall panicum and propanil's key attributes are broadleaf control and nutsedge suppression (and, did I mention- propanil controls grass weeds too).

Because of the late registration date- most of 2002 Clincher went into postflood clean up situations and worked quite well there. Some say that postflood clean up is the wrong way to control rice weeds. While I agree that salvage is bad, Mother Nature routinely derails the best plans and programs, so salvage is a fact of life. Clincher has a definite fit in postflood clean up,

just as Regiment, Stam + Facet and Ordram. It is possible that Clincher will be reserved for as-needed situation such as this, with other herbicides providing the mainstream grass and broadleaf control. Flexibility may be Clincher's greatest strength and weakness.

Please remember to treat early-POST Clincher the same as you'd treat early post propanil. I'm worried that growers think that Clincher will have the same top-rope-elbow-drop control early POST that it does postflood. It doesn't. Clincher, Ricestar and Propanil are very similar in the early POST window. Normally it's the big grass that's harder to kill, but with Clincher, the flood reverses that and littler grass is what's harder.