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TOP TANK MIXES

Andy Kendig

Extension Weed Specialist

Commercial Agriculture Program

MU Delta Center

What should you tank mix with Roundup for morningglory control? We continue to get that question. We're going to stick our necks out and list our top five recommendations.

One recommendation is nothing. Go ahead and joke that MU stands for Monsanto University. We have a lot of morningglory at the Delta Center and our glyphosate-only programs at Monsanto's recommended rates have been extremely adequate. "Extremely adequate" sounds like doublespeak, but that's the truth. Morningglories don't burst into flames when you spray glyphosate on them. But they usually stay lost, deep in the soybean canopy, where they're weak, yellow and slowly dying. A sequential glyphosate application is important: one year, our first glyphosate application turned our morningglories a faded yellow color and I thought that they'd be back with a vengeance. However, we put out our second shot, and by late season we had extremely clean beans.

That being said, it's time to tackle the big question: should you use a tank mix? If you are considering it because of something you read, or something someone said, then don't do it. In other words, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Straight glyphosate is cheapest and simplest. But, if you've had some problems with morningglory- that's the perfect place for a tank mix

What should you use? Our favorites are Aim, Classic, FirstRate and Scepter. All have shown us benefits for Morningglory control- especially when you look at a single glyphosate application. Aim has the benefit of being the cheapest option. Aim can also help with weeds such as hemp sesbania and pigweed. The downside to Aim is that it will cause some soybean burn, much like Blazer does. Also, Aim has no residual activity. Classic has the distinction of being the "original" tank mix partner for Roundup and DuPont has done loads of work demonstrating the benefits for control of morningglory, hemp sesbania and several other weeds, and we've seen the same. The one drawback to Classic would be a lack of residual activity. FirstRate is also a strong morningglory herbicide and has the benefit of good residual activity if you can catch a rain shortly after application. Downsides to FirstRate include weaknesses on pigweed and prickly sida. Scepter has never been mentioned that much, but it has the best residual activity. The chemistry related to Scepter (Pursuit, Raptor, Extreme and Backdraft) also work in this scenario. Be sure to check your rotational restrictions when you use a residual mix partner. Some of them do not allow rotation to cotton. On the subject of cotton- Staple plus glyphosate is our one morningglory tank mix partner for that crop.

Lots of other mix partners have been tested. Some have shown benefits for certain weed species, other's haven't been quite as good- and some haven't helped at all. If you have questions about other products or weeds, please don't hesitate to call.

There is one other case where we suggest a tank mix: resistance prevention. There are some

concerns that extensive use of glyphosate via Roundup Beans, Cotton, Corn and no-till might lead to herbicide resistant weeds. Adding different chemistry can help, so tank mixes might be a good idea. However, be cautious- just because you throw a second herbicide in the tank doesn't necessarily derail resistance. None of the morningglory partners have grass activity, and there is some glyphosate resistant goosegrass outside of the US. If the tank mix gives you a weed control benefit, give yourself an "atta-boy" for resistance prevention, but don't let your guard down on other types of rotation. Don't use a tank mix just because it might prevent resistance. There are five good choices for morningglory control in a Roundup Ready system and the decision process is straight forward. As with all weed control programs we enjoy hearing what does and doesn't work in the real world, so please don't be shy.