

EXCITING TIMES FOR COTTON WEED CONTROL: ENVOKE AND SUPREND

Andy Kendig
Extension Weed Specialist
Commercial Agriculture Program
MU Delta Center

Envoke and Suprend, are two new herbicides from Syngenta. Envoke is both similar to and different from Staple. Suprend is Caparol mixed with Envoke, for post-directed application. Like Staple, Envoke is a postemergence, over-the-top herbicide that primarily controls broadleaf weeds and which has an ALS-inhibitor mode of action. Envoke has very good activity on morningglory, nutsedge and sicklepod. Envoke is weaker on prickly sida (teaweed) and velvetleaf (wild cotton). Envoke and Staple are both weak on ALS-resistant weeds, including much of our Palmer amaranth. Envoke causes somewhat more crop response than Staple and has three key restrictions for crop safety: 1) Cotton should be 5-leaf or larger; 2) surfactant (not crop oil) should be used; , and 3) glyphosate tank mixtures should not be used. Crop oil and glyphosate mixes are ok for post-directed application where foliar contact is minimized.

Suprend combines the strong morningglory, nutsedge and sicklepod control from Envoke with residual activity and Palmer amaranth control from Suprend. Typically glyphosate or MSMA would be added for post-directed grass control. With all post-directed treatments, sprayer adjustment is critical. Suprend is among the safer post-directed herbicides, but get too much on your cotton and you'll see the typical Caparol result.

Syngenta is promoting Envoke for an application around or shortly after the 5-leaf stage. If you are having problems with morningglory, sicklepod or nutsedge this is a treatment worth considering. On the other hand, if everything is working perfectly in an Roundup Ready system, you could skip Envoke and go straight to a traditional post directed treatment like Suprend. When there is a good height differential and weeds are small, directed treatments are hard to beat for effective, residual weed control. However, in cases where there is no height differential, and cotton is past the 4-leaf stage, Envoke could be useful.

Suprend is not registered at this writing, even though Caparol and Envoke are. Fortunately, registration is expected (without a hitch) for the 2004 growing season. Suprend will be the directed herbicide of choice where there are severe nutsedge problems. It is also an excellent choice for morningglories and sicklepod, as are some other directed treatments.

Crop response will be the big issue with Envoke. Some yellowing and stunting is possible, especially if is cool and wet. Data indicates that Envoke has no detrimental effect on cotton yields; however, growers need to be prepared for a good, honest "yellow flash" when using it. Sloppy directed treatments are an option with Envoke. If morningglory, nutsedge and sicklepod are not troublesome, growers should consider "older" treatments like glyphosate and Staple.

