Weed Control Research Update

Prasanta C. Bhowmik
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
University of Massachusetts

"Restricted Use" is a headline. Is it a concern to us? What does the "restricted use" mean?

Restricted use herbicides are those herbicides that are classified as "restricted" by the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to FIFRA and those herbicides uses which the Subcommittee, Massachusetts Pesticide Board has restricted to use in the Commonwealth.

No person shall use a herbicide that has been classified by the Subcommittee as being for restricted or state limited use unless he or she is an appropriately certified private or commercial applicator or an individual acting under the direct supervision of an appropriately certified applicator. In addition, no person shall distribute herbicides classified by the Subcommittee as being restrictrd or state limited use unless that person is in possession of a currently valid licence issued by the Department.

Several herbicides are being considered by the Subcommittee for reclassification for use in Massachusetts. As a result, **LASSO** (alachlor) and **PREMERGE** (dinoseb) are restricted use herbicides in the Commonwealth as of July 1, 1986. Other herbicides considered for restricted use effective January 1, 1987 are **AATREX** (atrazine), **HYVAR-X** (bromacil), **BLADEX** (cyanazine), **DACTHAL** (dacthal), **DUAL** (metolachlor), **SENCOR** (metribuzin), and **PRINCEP** (simazine).

Weed Control in Corn: Most of the pre-plant-incorporated, preemergence and post emergence herbicides are available for weed control in corn. However, some of the herbicides will be restricted use in Massachusetts in 1987. If the growers and dairy farmers continue to use these restricted use herbicides, they must be certified by the State Pesticide Bureau-Department of Food and Agriculture. For weed control recommendations, consult the latest New England Weed Control Recommendation Guide.

WHAT'S NEW: Several postemergence treatments are currently available for annual weed control in corn.

MARKSMAN (atrazine and **dicamba)** is a selective postemergence herbicide, when applied at recommended rates, will control many annual broadleaf weeds and give growth suppression of many perennial broadleaf weeds commonly found in corn. Annual broadleaf weeds include redrrot pigweed, common ragweed, smartweed, wild mustard, common lambsquarters, jimsonweed, and velvetleaf. Common dandelion, field bindweed, curley dock, common milkweed, vetch, Canada thistle are some of the perennial broadleaf weeds.

Application of **MARKSMAN** herbicide may be made prior to, during, or after planting, but before the corn exceeds the 5-leaf stage. For best performance,

apply the herbicide when broadleaf weeds are emerged and actively growing. It can be used at 2 to 3 pints per acre.

MARKSMAN herbicide is a water-dispersible formulation that can be applied using water or sprayable fluid fertilizer as the carrier. Apply 10 to 50 gallons of diluted spray per acre. Use the higher level of the listed spay volume when treating dense or tall vegetation. Use coarse sprays.

BUCTRIL (bromoxynil) is a selective postemergence herbicide for broadleaf weed control in corn. Tank-mix combination of **BUCTRIL** (bromoxynil) and **AATREX** (atrazine) is recommended for control of important broadleaf weeds in field corn and popcorn. The recomemded rates of **BUCTRIL** and **AATREX** combination are 1.5 to 3.0 pints per acre. **BUCTRIL** can be applied between the 3-leaf stage of corn and prior to tassel emergence.

TANDEM is a selective postemergence herbicide to be applied as a tank mixture in combinations with **AATREX** (atrazine) and/or **BLADEX 80W** (cyanazine) herbicide for use to control annual grasses and broadleaf weeds in field corn. Residual preemergence activity may occur with these combinations provided soil coverage is achieved and adequate moisture is present. Annual grasses including barnyardgrass, crabgrasses, foxtails, and most common broadleaf weeds in corn are susceptible to these combinations.
Use tank-mix combinations of **TANDEM** plus **AATREX** or **BLADEX 80W** at 1 + 1.5 pints (or 1.5 lbs) per acre in 20 to 30 gallons per acre.

Application timing is important. Apply tha tank-mix combinations to young actively growing weeds. For optimum control, apply after the first flush of annual grasses has emerged and is in the 1 to 3-leaf stage. A cultivation 7 to 14 days later after the treatment can improve results.

These post emergence treatments can be used safely for specific weed control as an added tool in weed management systems. The choice will depend upon the user.