

Bluestem Breezes
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Battling Pigweeds in Soybeans – Part 2

Last week, K-State Agronomy Specialists Dallas Peterson and Doug Shoup provided tactics for battling palmer amaranth and waterhemp in soybean fields. This week, they take it one step further and offer additional methods for controlling those unruly pigweeds:

Where glyphosate-resistant pigweeds have become a problem, producers may want to consider planting Liberty Link or conventional soybeans.

These soybeans also will need a diversified weed control program that utilizes residual herbicides and timely applications. In addition to applications to small pigweeds, Liberty and most other postemergence pigweed herbicides need to be applied at higher spray volumes of at least 15 gallons per acre to achieve good spray coverage.

Liberty also works better with higher humidity and when sprayed during the daylight hours. If weeds aren't controlled within 7 days of Liberty application, a second application 7 to 10 days after the first application generally controls any surviving plants. Always follow label guidelines regarding rates, adjuvants, and application procedures to achieve the best results with any herbicide treatment.

Several new herbicide resistant traits may be fully approved for use in soybeans in the next several years. The new traits will provide new weed control options, but also may increase the complexity of management. The new traits include 2,4-D resistant soybeans (Enlist), dicamba resistant soybeans (Roundup Ready 2 Xtend), and HPPD resistant soybeans (Balance GT and MGI). Most of these soybeans will be stacked with more than one herbicide-resistant trait, but won't be stacked with all of the different traits.

Regardless of the herbicide-resistant trait, the most effective weed control programs are integrated programs with multiple weed control methods and diversified herbicide programs. Postemergence treatments with these programs also will need to be applied before pigweeds exceed 3 to 4 inches tall to maximize control.

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For more information visit the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; kamayer@ksu.edu; 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out wabaunsee.ksu.edu.