

Application Technology Training Meeting with Options

Wolf Consulting and Research LLC
Instructor - Robert E. Wolf

Making decisions regarding the proper application of crop protection products in the future will be challenging. We have come through a time when using glyphosate was the norm and consequently very little attention was given to the practices used to make applications. All we had to do was build pressure and drive...all the weeds would die, or so we thought. Now, after years of questionable applications practices and numerous other reasons we are battling weeds that won't die. Technologically improved formulations of 2,4-D, dicamba, and other such products will become part of a much different application process, as will the requirements of using a variety of tank mixes to combat this war against resistant weeds. Not only will there be Roundup Ready seed technology, but also, 2,4-D, dicamba, and others. As we are beginning to learn, the applications of the future will be very much dictated by what is included on the label with specific information on droplet size, nozzle type requirements, boom height restrictions, buffer zone requirements, and others. Many of these concepts are new to the application industry and because of the concern for proper stewardship expressed by the EPA, the participating seed and chemical companies will be very intent on ensuring that applicators follow these detailed requirements. If not, then we may lose the technology. That would be unfortunate because we need all the help we can get.

I am offering a 1½ hour workshop that will focus on the issues and strategies that will be involved in making applications to herbicide tolerant crops (HTC). I will discuss how these requirements may be much different than past applications. Though many HTC acres are predicted, not all applications in the near future will be made on herbicide tolerant crops where drift mitigation will be a high priority. Coverage herbicides, fungicides, and insecticide application strategies will also be discussed. What we do know, future application programs will be more diverse than ever before, at least from an equipment/nozzle perspective. Listed are the three main discussion topics that will be a part of this workshop.

1. Intro, Professionalism, Goals of Application, Application Inefficiencies (30 minutes)
2. Nozzle Technology-non Herbicide Tolerant Crops (HTC) (30)
3. Application Strategies including nozzle/droplet size requirements for HTC (30)

Depending on the focus of your meeting, this workshop could stand alone or could blend well with other meeting topics with other speakers. This is currently a very popular topic and very much in demand and would be good for most all Ag retail personnel involved in the application of crop protection products including managers, sales, agronomists, etc. I could see this fitting well with a safety meeting, a chemical company sponsored meeting, or even a grower appreciation meeting. It could also be adapted for an outdoor field day or plot tour, or even as a stop at the field day or plot tour.

I have a couple of other topics that could be added to a longer workshop that would blend well with the herbicide tolerant topics. Also, if interested, I could provide a topic on spray drift. Those three topics are:

4. Spray System Cleanout Issues and Concerns (30)
5. Spray Solution Effect on the Application of Crop Protection Products (30)
6. Technical Aspects Of Spray Drift with Focus on Environmental Concerns (30)