

HEC Newsletter
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Residuals-What should we expect?

There are many benefits to using a residual and the one that stands out the most is the length of the residual. Many weed scientists say that 4 weeks is a realistic amount of control to expect from a residual with six weeks being a huge bonus to the grower. Researchers also recommend that no tillage should be used after a residual is applied, as it will decrease or possibly eliminate residual activity.

Another benefit of using a residual is knowing that weeds are being controlled if the weather does not allow you to get in and do post-emergence applications. After weeds reach 4-6 inches in height, they can start robbing yield from the crop. Every day that post applications are delayed due to weather or other circumstances can result in about 1.2 bushel per acre per day yield loss in corn and one third of a bushel per acre per day yield loss in soybeans. Fall applications of residuals can also help with having a head start on weed control and being able to plant as soon as spring allows.

Resistance management is also a benefit with a residual. By using different modes of action the grower is lessening the chance of weeds developing resistance to commonly used herbicides. Having a residual targeting these tough to control weeds will help as there will not be as many weeds to control with your postemerge application.

It is also important to be aware of the crop rotation intervals in the residual herbicides you are thinking about using. Some herbicides have a longer length of residual than others and can effect what crop you will rotate to in following years.

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