

DICAMBA UPDATE

Soybean Weed Control



AgLand Coop
Agronomy Department

AgLand Agronomy

Dicamba Update

Dicamba Banned!

On February 6th a Federal Judge ordered the EPA to vacate the registration of Dicamba based products, designed for use as over the top [in crop] soybeans and cotton effectively banning the use of these products at a time where much of both the seed and the herbicides themselves had already been shipped into the distribution stream. This immediately created a lot of concern amongst farmers across the nation as news of the ban spread rapidly across social media.

After consulting our suppliers, we took a wait and see approach to this potential problem.

We are glad that we did! The EPA gave those of us involved in soybean production a wonderful Valentine's Day gift.

Happy Valentines Day!

On February 14th, the EPA sided with the Ag Industry and ruled that Dicamba based products, including Extendimax, Tavium & Engenia already in the sales and distribution stream is approved for in crop applications during the 2024 growing season. An excerpt of the EPA's Dicamba Update appears below.

EPA Provides Update on Over-the-Top Uses of Dicamba

Released on February 14, 2024

In light of the February 6, 2024, ruling by the U.S. District Court of Arizona vacating the 2020 registrations for over-the-top (OTT) dicamba products, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing the following update. On February 14, 2024, EPA issued an Existing Stocks Order for Dicamba Products Previously Registered for Over-the-Top Use on Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton and Soybean. This Order addresses use of the formerly registered dicamba products and authorizes limited sale and distribution of dicamba products that are already in the possession of growers or in the channels of trade and outside the control of the pesticide companies.

Here is a link to the entire update: [Dicamba Over the Top Update](#)

On February 14th, the EPA issued an **Existing Stocks** Order for Dicamba Products Previously Registered for Over-the-Top Use on Dicamba Tolerant Cotton and Soybeans. Click right on the excerpt to follow a link to the EPA webpage if you want to read the entire order.



OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 14, 2024

Subject: Existing Stocks Order for Dicamba Products Previously Registered for Over-the-Top Use on Dicamba-Tolerant Cotton and Soybean

Product Names: XtendiMax® with VaporGrip® Technology
Engenia® Herbicide
A21472 Plus VaporGrip® Technology (Tavium® Plus VaporGrip® Technology)

Registration Nos.: 264-1210
7969-472
100-1623

Click box to read entire EPA order.

What does this mean to you?

This means that you should immediately make sure that you have your 2024 soybean herbicides, especially XtendiMax based programs, booked, and preferably prepaid with AgLand.

Avoid using XtendiMax or related products as a dicamba substitute for pre-planting burndown. Use Dicamba Max instead.

If you cannot procure XtendiMax, Tavium or Engenia, check your soybean traits to see if you have ordered Xtend Flex (XF) or Xtend(X) only soybeans.

If you have XF soybeans contact us, and we will set you up with a Liberty Link based program.

However, Liberty cannot be used on Xtend (X) only soybeans. You will have to use a Round-up plus conventional herbicides program.

Other Things You Can Do:

As we learned last year, no soybean post herbicide program is perfect in dry weather. Here are some things that you should consider doing to improve your chances of improved weed control and overall yield protection in soybeans.

- Pay close attention to your planting depth and the weather forecast.
- Watch for crusting if you have done fall or spring tillage of any kind.
- Keep populations at or slightly above 140,000 seeds per acre.
 - Supports more uniform emergence when planting with a planter.
 - Increases population in bad areas where weeds tend to appear.
- Use high quality seed treatments like Warden CXII.
- Inoculate your soybean seed with a high-quality Soybean Inoculants, like [Preside Ultra®](#).
- Use soybean varieties with a vase like or wide architecture.
 - The narrow, stick-like, varieties don't canopy over the row enough to be of any use at all.
 - The exception to this might be in drilled soybeans planted at 160,000 seeds per acre or more.
- Scout your soybeans at least twice a week.
 - Let us know at once if you spot small broadleaf seedlings. Please be sure to photograph or note the dispersal pattern, the number of leaves, weed height and estimate of weeds per square foot or square yard.
 - Please take a photo of a fully emerged true leaf.
 - Broadleaf weeds like Kochia, aka Fire Weed or Tumbleweed, can increase in height very rapidly.
 - This is especially important if you are using a Liberty-based program.
 - Once weeds exceed the height of a regular beer can, they become extremely difficult to control with any herbicide, especially Liberty.
 - Round-up 3 plus Liberty in combination with AMS and other adjuvants has proven to be an effective but imperfect late season respray if needed.
 - The fl. Oz. of Liberty and Roundup Powermax 3 must be kept equal, or antagonism can occur.
 - Corn Killing herbicides should be used at label rates according to the stage of the corn plus 3 days estimated growth (add 1 or 2 leaves).
 - Let Ron know if you need help staging corn.
 - Crusting is also likely to occur in ponds that receive soil laden runoff from rill and gully erosion.
 - If soybean emergence is inhibited by crusting, and there is not a lot of large corn residue trash, scratching the surface of the field might work.
 - The tillage implement should be one designed for minimum soil surface disturbance and minimum dirt throwing.
 - Set it just deep enough that it creates thin chunks of surface soil.
 - Cultivators work great for this.

PRE-EMERGENCE IS KEY

No matter what post emergence herbicide program you use, the pre-emergence weed control program will be key.

This year A & D's standard pre-emergence soybean herbicide program will look something like this:

- 30 oz Broadaxe XC
- 30 oz Roundup Powermax 3
- 5 oz Dimetric EXT
- 16 oz Dicamba Max
- 16 oz Class Act NG

Aside from Round-up & Dicamba, the herbicides in this tank mix have little or no activity on emerged weeds. And, as you already know, our main target weeds like Kochia, Tall Waterhemp Lambsquarters and Giant Ragweed are resistant to Round-up. This is why it is so important for the farmer or one of his/her employees to scout the fields at least twice 4 – 10 days after pre-emergence applications.

Proper scouting has several requirements:

- Pull over at or into the field entrance.
 - Get out of the pick-up after checking for traffic.

Scouting while Walking:

- Walk out into the fields at least ½ way, and to your right while looking up and down the rows for weeds.
 - Walking all the way to the other end is best because the nastiest surprises usually hide at the far end of a field.
 - Walk across the field to a similar point on the opposite side of the field.
 - Return to the field entrance.
 - Don't forget to look in the rows for weeds.
 - Weeds like to hide in the row amongst the beans.

Scouting from an ATV:

- Try not to run over the crop.
- Divide the field up in your mind so that you make several rounds in the field.
- As you drive across the headlands to your next pass, look down between the rows for green between the rows.
 - If you see "Green Between", drive to it and see what's happening (How bad is it?).
 - Don't drink and drive when scouting with an ATV. You will need to conserve the beer until your done scouting and really you need it.....because of the heat.
- Record your findings in your field notebook.

Scouting from an ATV continued:

- Report any weed out breaks to your AgLand Sales Representative.
- Make note of the field name, Township, Section, Quarter, and position within that quarter so that your rep directs the applicator to the correct field and not to your neighbors' organic soybeans.

Bottom Line:

Get your butt out of the truck or off the tractor. If you can see weeds from the road, the probability of less than adequate weed control has already gone up dramatically. If you see weeds in the field at 30 mph, nearly all hope of adequate weed control is lost.

Tissue Testing?

There has been a lot of debate about plant tissue testing in general. However, if we find a nutrient deficiency in soybeans, we may have an opportunity to correct it without making an extra application pass. We offer a range of foliar products that boost early season vegetative growth when applied at the time of normal post emergence spraying. The more leaf area we can generate, and the tighter we can close that canopy the higher our yield will be, barring unfortunate weather conditions, insect damage and late season disease infestations (also weather dependent). Here is a highly favored product that we routinely recommend maximize soybeans: [Max in Ultra ZMB Plus](#) . Some growers even apply it in the post herbicide application and again with any insecticide or fungicide applications.

Prioritize!

Your crops are a high priority. They generate a lot of cash flow that you need to cover bills. We cannot control the weather or the commodity markets, but we can influence yield. Spreading fixed expenses like rent and equipment payments across more bushels is the name of the game. And, raising that APH base for crop insurance is helpful eventually.