

FALL AND EARLY SPRING APPLICATIONS OF RIMSULFURON + THIFENSULFURON METHYL FOR WINTER ANNUAL WEED CONTROL IN CONVENTIONAL -TILL AND NO-TILL CORN. Kevin L. Hahn, Marsha J. Martin, Helen A. Flanigan and David W. Saunders, Field Development Manager—IL, Field Development Manager—OH and MI, Field Development Manager—IN and KY, and Product Development Manager—US, DuPont Crop Protection, Johnston, IA. 50131

Winter annual weed infestations have been increasing in Midwest crop production fields causing management problems in both conventional-till and no-till corn production. Field studies were conducted from 1998 through 2002 to determine the best weed control programs for managing winter annual weeds in conventional and no-till corn. Field studies revealed that fall or early-spring applications of rimsulfuron + thifensulfuron methyl (DuPont<sup>®</sup> Basis<sup>®</sup>) herbicide programs provided the broadest spectrum winter annual weed control and early season residual control of spring germinating summer annual weeds as compared to other herbicide programs. Field studies also revealed that fall or early-spring applications of rimsulfuron + thifensulfuron methyl programs could be utilized in combination with in-crop postemergence herbicide programs to provide season long weed control in commercial corn production fields. In a field study conducted from 2001 and 2002 in conventional-till corn, fall applications of rimsulfuron + thifensulfuron methyl programs effectively controlled heavy infestations of common dandelion. Areas treated with fall applied rimsulfuron + thifensulfuron methyl programs had average corn plant stands of 23,967 plants per acre while untreated areas had average corn plant stand counts of 17,300 plants per acre.