

PESTICIDE COMPANY PERSPECTIVE. Mark A. Wrucke, Regional Technical Manager, Bayer CropScience, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

Adjuvants and adjuvant systems can greatly impact herbicide performance and crop response of many active ingredients. Extensive research efforts are required to determine if an adjuvant is required for maximum performance and to define which adjuvants provide the greatest benefit under various conditions. When developing a commercial formulation, the decision must be made whether to include the adjuvant system in the formulation or to rely on an external adjuvant system. Screening of external adjuvants can be a time consuming and costly process. Experience has proven that not all products in an adjuvant class perform equally. Another observation is that adjuvants can change from one year to the next which may impact performance. Maintaining maximum herbicide performance with active ingredients which require adjuvants demands close cooperation between the herbicide manufacturer and the adjuvant companies. Pesticide manufacturers tend to be reluctant to change adjuvant system and recommendations when they have experience with a system that works well. Ultimate liability for a product's performance tends to remain with the manufacturer regardless the impact made by an adjuvant system.