

Feature Story



BASF expert take: crop desiccation best practices

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, September 26, 2017 — Before harvest season comes to an end, there may be a need for final herbicide applications. BASF's Technical Service Representative Ken Diebert has a few pointers on making a successful crop desiccation application.

Mother Nature

According to Diebert, sunshine and warm weather prior to crop desiccation allows for better application with better control.

"Watch the night temperatures," said Diebert. "If the temperature drops below 45 degrees at night, it would be best to wait one to two days — let the sun come out again before making those applications."

Early snowfall can also cause issues. To avoid decay and to allow for an earlier harvest, Diebert recommends applying an herbicide, such as Sharpen® herbicide.

"Your crop will mature with greater uniformity and there will be less green plant material to run through the combine, which will in turn put less strain on harvesting equipment," said Diebert.

What's in your tank?

In addition to making applications when weather conditions are right, Diebert recommends including methylated seed oil (MSO) in the tank mix with Sharpen to get better coverage. Depending on the crop, growers can add between one to one-and-a-half pints per acre.

"If you have a crop that is harder to desiccate, such as sunflower or canola, go up to one-and-a-half pints per acre," said Diebert. "Use plenty of water — a minimum of 15 gallons per acre."

To create the most successful application, growers should refer to the respective herbicide labels to apply at the optimum time. Consult your local dealer or BASF representative to make sure applications are correct for an efficient harvest.

Growers can learn more about Sharpen® herbicide by visiting www.agproducts.basf.us.

About BASF

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