2005 Beltwide Cotton Conferences, New Orleans, Louisiana - January 4 - 7, 2005

WIDESTRIKE*: A NEW STACKED INSECT RESISTANT TRAIT FOR COTTON

G. D. Thompson, J.W. Pellow, L.B. Braxton, R.A. Haygood, R.M. Huckaba, R.B. Lassiter, F.J. Haile, M.M. Wilrich, J.S. Richburg and J.M. Richardson
Dow AgroSciences
Indianapolis, IN

Abstract

Dow AgroSciences is a major supplier of pest management, biotechnology, and seed products that improve the quality and quantity of the earth's food supply and contribute to the health and quality of life of the world's growing population. One of the more prominent developments in insect control has been the development and rapid adoption of Bt cotton, which brought significant advantages to the cotton producer. Dow AgroSciences has had a long commitment to biotechnology, which is bearing fruit with a highly efficacious stacked transgenic trait that express both the Cry1F and Cry1Ac lepidopteran active Bt proteins in cotton plants. The simultaneous expression of these two proteins is a characteristic of WideStrike. WideStrike Insect Protection received deregulated status for cotton from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), completed Pre-market Biotechnology Notice consultations with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during 2004. The new cotton trait will be introduced into the market and available in PhytoGen varieties in 2005. It is anticipated that there will be an ample supply of PHY 440 W a high yielding early to mid WideStrike cotton variety which is an improved version of PHY 355. There will also be limited availability of two Round-Up Ready plus WideStrike varieties. The combined trait stack results in higher levels of efficacy and a broader lepidopteran pest spectrum than previously available in single Bt cotton, improving the overall value to the grower and providing selection diversity to slow resistance development in target insects. Additionally, improved promoters provide expression throughout the growing season. Performance data and information on pest spectrum will be briefly commented on with more detailed information provided in several talks during the Insect Conference.