2,4-D AND DICAMBA….YEAR 1

A. Stanley Culpepper
University of Georgia
Tifton, GA

Abstract

Adoption of auxin tolerant cotton technologies and the use of their respective herbicide systems was significant in Georgia during 2017. Growers achieved good to excellent weed control, including Palmer amaranth, while successfully making on-target applications. During 2017, the Georgia Department of Agriculture did not receive an official in-season dicamba application complaint while only receiving one in-season 2,4-D application complaint, which was still under investigation at time of publication. Success in Georgia was a response to growers making wise decisions when applying all pesticides, especially with their in-season dicamba or 2,4-D applications. Although a dozen or more factors likely influenced growers in making good decisions, four of these factors were critical. First and most importantly, most growers identified fields surrounded by sensitive plants species and avoided 2,4-D or dicamba applications in those areas. This approach was critical in avoiding applications near Georgia's fresh market produce, valued at more than $1 billion. Secondly, the partnership of academics and industry researching and developing new/revised methods to improve on-target pesticide applications over the last decade was paramount. Just as important, was the delivery of those research results through Georgia's Using Pesticides Wisely classroom trainings provided as a joint effort between The University of Georgia and Georgia Department of Agriculture. Third, the positive environmental conditions throughout Georgia during 2017 with relatively low winds and lack of inversions greatly influenced a grower's ability to improve on-target applications. Finally, the experience that Georgia growers have obtained with many years of making herbicide/defoliant applications around sensitive crops of high value was beneficial. These past experiences helped growers better identify where the auxin herbicides should not be applied in-season.