

A FEW THOUGHTS ON WET FIELDS AND HERBICIDES June 2006

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During the very wet spring of 2006, growers are faced with the potential for poor herbicide performance combined with a limited ability to cultivate. While rainfall after herbicide applications is usually welcome, excess rainfall can move the herbicide below the zone in which it is most effective, usually the top inch of soil. In some cases, movement of that herbicide will result in crop injury.

If a field needs to be replanted due to poor crop germination and a preemergence herbicide has already been applied, it would be best to work the soil, replant the field, and apply the herbicide again at half the rate. If the herbicide was applied pre-plant and incorporated, work the soil again but only to the depth that the herbicide was originally incorporated. If the soil needs to be worked more deeply, up to half the herbicide can be re-applied. Use extra caution in 2 cases. The first is when Curbit or Strategy is used on cucurbits. In this case, work the soil at least 6 inches before replanting. The second case is where Prowl was used on sweet corn. I suggest not reworking the soil prior to replanting. If you cannot replant the field in its existing condition, consider working the soil and leaving it fallow until you need it for a later planting, allowing time for the herbicide to break down.

If the field does not need to be replanted but has received excess rainfall, it is possible that herbicide performance will not be acceptable. In this case, be prepared to either cultivate or use a post-emergence herbicide if one is available.

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