

Roundup Ready® Flex Cotton a Time-Saver for this Farmer

It doesn't matter if you're a farmer, a doctor or a lawyer, because the old adage "Time is money" has never been truer than it is today. A farmer's time is especially valuable in our current agricultural economy.

For that reason, South Texas farmer and cotton producer Austin Clary has to be time-conscious. Together with his brother, Kenneth, Clary manages two farm operations that are 40 miles apart about 60 to 90 minutes west of San Antonio. Crops include cotton and corn, much of it under either center-pivot or furrow irrigation. Bob Clary and Sons, Inc., is located in D'Hanis and Uvalde, Texas.

"It is sometimes difficult to get over all our cotton ground in a timely manner with some types of equipment," says Clary, whose farm includes 1,100 acres of irrigated cotton and 600 acres of dryland cotton. "It was especially difficult some years to get over all of our Roundup Ready® cotton before we passed the fifth-leaf stage."

This despite the fact that Clary has not one but two John Deere Hi-Cycle sprayers that can travel 12-14 mph and cover 350 to 400 acres on a good day of spraying. For post-directed herbicide applications, Clary has to use a hooded sprayer that can only travel 4 to 5 mph and cover 80 acres in a good day of spraying.

And this is where Clary thinks that Roundup Ready Flex cotton might fit into his operation and give him more flexibility and extra time to focus on other chores. "We planted some of this new technology cotton in 2006, and it performed real well for us," says Clary. "We only planted 50 acres, but I can see that Roundup Ready Flex cotton will probably be on more acres in 2007. This is the technology of the future."

Overall, it was a very dry year and, according to the farmer, difficult to keep up with irrigation demands. This is an area in which he thinks the Roundup Ready Flex cotton will help him.

"We run 13 pivots and nine wells," says Clary. "During peak water-use times in cotton and corn, we don't have time to run hooded sprayers or cultivators. In fact, we don't have time for much else. Irrigation on this scale takes our full attention: we have to get parts quickly, something is always breaking down, we're in a dead run." The annual rainfall in Clary's area of East Texas is 22-24 inches.

The Roundup Ready Flex technology, Clary adds, will free him up from the stressful four-leaf stage cutoff for the original Roundup Ready cotton. "We'll be able to spray for weeds a bit later when we have time to get it done," he emphasizes. "It will just give us a lot more flexibility



South Texas producer Austin Clary is pleased with the performance of his Roundup Ready Flex cotton this season.

and allow us to focus on irrigation tasks earlier in the growing season. Plus, we'll be able to cover more acres quickly with our over-the-top applications of Roundup Original MAX®, compared with using hooded sprayers."

Clary's weed spectrum in cotton includes purslane, hophornbean copperleaf, sunflowers, johnsongrass, pigweed, carelessweed and morningglory. "We're farming strip-till and try to avoid tillage whenever we can in order to conserve moisture."

Clary says the Roundup Ready Flex technology just gives him many more options to spray for weeds. "Rain sometimes gets in the way of our herbicide applications," the farmer says. "That shouldn't be as much of a worry with the Roundup Ready Flex cotton."

Gin by-products of cotton containing Monsanto's biotech traits, including cottonseed for feed uses, are fully approved for export to Canada, Japan, Mexico, and South Korea. Cottonseed containing Monsanto traits may not be exported for the purpose of planting without a license from Monsanto.

Always read and follow pesticide label directions. Roundup Ready crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup agricultural herbicides. Roundup agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not glyphosate tolerant. Growers should be sure that the glyphosate product used in these applications over Roundup Ready Flex cotton has been tested for that use so as to reduce the risk of leaf damage. See the Roundup Ready Flex Technical Use Guide for details. Roundup®, Roundup Ready® and Roundup Original Max® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. ©2006 Monsanto Company.

[28098-4 RRF SWFP 10/19/06]