

News Releases/ Media Relations

CROPTech



Cotton seedlings emerge in a Monsanto greenhouse. The company recently announced plans to buy the third-largest cotton seed company in the U.S.

Monsanto to Buy Emergent Genetics

Monsanto Company announced a definitive agreement to acquire Emergent Genetics Inc., the third largest cotton seed company in the U.S. with about 12% market share. Monsanto will pay \$300 million for the business, which includes Stoneville and NexGen cotton seed brands in the U.S., as well as two seed brands in India.

"Coupled with the germplasm development and licensing in our Cotton States business, our cotton business can mirror the successful model we've established through branded and licensed channels in corn and soybeans," says Hugh Grant, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Monsanto.

"Just as our DeKalb and Asgrow brands do in corn and soybeans, we believe the Stoneville and NexGen brands will provide a powerful showcase of our breeding advances and biotechnology traits in the U.S.," Grant says.

Monsanto says it still plans to license its current Bollgard and Roundup Ready cotton traits, as well as future traits, such as Roundup Ready Flex, to other cotton seed companies. The plan to buy Emergent Genetics was announced shortly after Monsanto stated it plans to buy Seminis, a global leader in vegetable and fruit seed.

Two-Way Weed Control Combo for Soybeans

Several seed companies have stacked DuPont's STS-tolerant soybean system with Monsanto Company's Roundup Ready trait. The result is that farmers can apply Synchrony and Harmony GT herbicides in combination with Roundup herbicides.

"The key here is that we're not replacing full rates of glyphosate," says David Young, project manager for DuPont Crop Protection. "It's meant to supplement the Roundup program without cutting rates."

Young says farmers with weeds that aren't easy to control with label rates of Roundup will find the combination useful. Harmony GT and Synchrony labels have special instructions for STS plus Roundup Ready soybeans.

Harpins Trigger Plant Defense

Eden Bioscience Corporation received approval for its product ProAct to be labeled for corn, cotton and rice. ProAct is a foliar-applied harpin protein that stimulates plants' natural defense mechanisms against disease-causing bacteria.

Harpin proteins are produced by bacteria that attack plants. Most plants have harpin receptors that activate self-defense and growth systems. Eden Bioscience says that ProAct stimulates this response before real attacks, thereby improving crop vigor, stamina and health—all factors in yield.

For the 2005 growing season, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is cosponsoring a program with Eden Bioscience to demonstrate the potential benefits of ProAct on corn. NCGA members qualify for a \$1/oz. discount on ProAct. Retail price is about \$6/oz. For more information, visit www.edenbio.com.



During its maggot stage, Hessian fly feeds on wheat. Affected plants are stunted and damage can cause stems to buckle.

Goatgrass Gene Resists Hessian Fly

Hessian fly resistance in wheat loses its effectiveness as the mosquito-like fly species evolves. Sporadic outbreaks of Hessian fly cost wheat farmers millions of dollars. That's why USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) researchers have worked to develop new resistant lines.

Three new spring wheat germplasm lines are now available from USDA-ARS for breeding commercial varieties resistant to the Hessian fly. The resistant lines released jointly with North Dakota State University derive their resistance from jointed goatgrass, a wild wheat species.

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