General Comments of 2003 Research Trials

The 2003 weed research trials were conducted at the Purdue Agronomy Research Center in west central Indiana, 7 miles northwest of West Lafayette. The soil at the Purdue Agronomy Research Center is a Chalmers silty clay loam with about 4 percent organic matter.

April was a warm and dry month. The weather changed for May; air and soil temperatures were below normal, and rainfall was considerably higher than normal. This caused planting and spraying operations to be delayed and crop development to be slowed. It took some soybeans as long as two weeks to emerge. Temperatures and precipitation moderated in June which provided good growing conditions for the crops. Crop development continued to lag even with the improved conditions, however. Very heavy rains fell early in July which left several trials flooded for several days. After the water finally receded, soil moisture remained adequate through mid-August. Crop development still remained behind normal. By the end of August, soil moisture became limiting as temperatures rose to be higher than normal. Another round of flooding occurred in early September. Fortunately, for the crop, September was warm which extended the growing season and allowed more time for crops to mature. Generally, it was a year that lagged on growing degree days for the entire season. Crop yields were better than expected.

Weed control from preemergence herbicides was good early in the season. However, the excessive rainfall put extra stress on these herbicides and some failed to provide adequate control later in the season. Little injury was observed following the application of many post chemicals. Late flushes of weeds occurred with the heavy rains in July and September.