




With many soybean fields in our area being planted earlier than normal along with recently heavy rainfalls we see a potential risk of weed escapes, and additional flushes of hard to control weeds through the rest of this growing season.

Early Planting Leads To Early Flowering

In 2021 we had a great opportunity to plant soybeans into good field conditions much earlier than we would normally expect. While numerous studies have shown a large potential yield increase to getting beans in early and having them begin to flower earlier in the season this can be problematic when trying to use herbicides that are labeled up to a certain growth stage. For reference Liberty is labeled through R1 (Flower anywhere on the plant) while Enlist One and Glyphosate are labeled through R2 (Flowers within the top 4 nodes of the plant). This becomes critical when soybeans are entering these reproductive stages much earlier in the year than we normally anticipate and when there is adequate soil moisture for weed seed to germinate.

	R1	Beginning flowering - plants have at least one flower on any node
	R2	Full flowering - there is an open flower at one of the two uppermost nodes
	R3	Beginning pod - pods are 3/16 inch (5 mm) at one of the four uppermost nodes

Potential Escapes

With a large reliance on Liberty herbicide to control weeds such as waterhemp this year we are beginning to see weeds that were originally burnt back, spring back to life with new growth. While I feel it is a little premature to believe these weeds are resistant to the Liberty herbicide I do believe that with the fantastic growing season we have had along with coverage dependent nature of the Liberty herbicide we had the perfect situation for weeds to be burnt back, and come right back.



What Do We Need To Do?

SCOUT SCOUT SCOUT!!! The best thing for us to do at this point is be in the fields that have a history of heavy waterhemp and other weed pressure before it is too late. One of the key benefits to the Enlist herbicide platform is picking up that additional growth stage on the label, which gives us about an additional 2 weeks of application. If a grower has already applied a 1 pint rate of enlist, they would still be able to apply an additional pint as a rescue treatment. If the grower only applied Liberty at post to Enlist beans then the 1 Pint rate could still be used in the rescue treatment as well. If the beans are Liberty only or Extend Flex we still need to get out there and try to make that potential rescue treatment of Liberty as close to R1 as possible and not when we are seeing escapes, or new flushes, come through the canopy at R3 or later. Anything that we can do to prevent late applications of products like Cobra that are expensive, yield robbing, and have marginal results is a great step to finishing out what looks to be a potentially fantastic crop.