**PROVEN PERFORMANCE**

New data shows Roundup Ready PL Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD performs as effectively as Roundup Ready Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD on common summer grasses and broadleaf weeds cotton growers know all too well. Trials conducted in fallow sites around Brookstead, QLD showed no significant difference in performance between Roundup Ready Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD and Roundup Ready PL Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD on Awnless Barnyard Grass, Sow (Milk) Thistle, and Wild Mustard (Figure 1).

Cotton grower Michael Hockey of “Springfield” at Caroona on the Liverpool Plains, NSW has been impressed by the ease of use of Roundup Ready PL Herbicide and activity it has on multiple weeds.

“We’ve used the granular and it definitely worked well,” he said. “It is just the mixing up process where the liquid was so easy. It was fantastic this year and we were getting really good control on the Milk Thistle and even the Fleabane.”

He said other glyphosate options used in the past hadn’t been as effective on Milk Thistle weeds.

“We found with the 450g/L, you might as well not be doing it because it just grows through it.”

The Milk Thistle weeds were well controlled as were other problem weeds in the cotton which included Johnson’s grass, Noogoora burr and Liverseed grass. Roundup Ready PL Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD was sprayed three times across the dryland cotton crop with the initial application at the six to eight leaf stage and subsequent applications after storm and weed activity. Its success in cotton meant it was also being applied to fallow paddocks.
A switch to a superior glyphosate formulation has reaped dividends for farmer clients of CQ Ag Services at Emerald, in the Central Highlands region of central Queensland. Darren Young, of CQ Ag Services, said the new Roundup Ready Performance Liquid Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD has been a standout over the top of cotton.

“The new Roundup Ready PL Herbicide with PLANTSHIELD really had a better fit but still had the crop safety in the product,” Mr. Young said.

“It is always in the back of our mind with the high humidity and the heat up here. Crop safety is paramount and we are now seeing it with the new liquid formulation that we are getting the crop safety.”

“The larger growers love it. They can use it on multiple situations on fallow country, right through until over the top of the cotton.”

“It really makes sense for our business. It really fits in with our large dryland focus and on the niche market over the top in the cotton. Particularly for us consulting in the game, we know that it has got the crop safety and we know the performance of the product is there and then just the practicality of using it in shuttles has been quite fantastic.”

Mr. Young consults with dryland and irrigated cotton as well as the broad acre crops.

A heavy weed burden is a significant stress on a crop, but the effects of factors such as temperature extremes, humidity, drought, and pesticide use on crop yield have also been well documented. Glyphosate can be one such factor.

Even if the crop is a glyphosate-tolerant variety, applying a glyphosate formulation OTT in conjunction with other pesticide management practices can have a cumulative phytotoxic effect. This is why having a crop safener additive is so important; it minimises the herbicide stress on the crop while still allowing the herbicide to effectively control the weed. All Roundup Ready Herbicide products are formulated with PLANTSHIELD crop safener technology to minimise phytotoxicity and maximise the crop’s capacity for yield and quality.

In 2017 Sinochem is investigating the impact of stress factors on cotton yield and also how it may be augmented by the timing of herbicide application. It is hoped that the research may assist the decision on when to spray and highlight the influence of tank mix partners and product choice.