May 2021 Pest Management Newsletter

What Happened Here?

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This month's Weed Science contest is What Happened Here? The scenario and pictures presented come from a real-world scenario that occurred this year here in Arkansas.

Here's the scenario: injury on corn was observed that included burning/necrotic leaf tissue and the burning had slightly spread on the leaf (Picture 1). The injury was present consistently across several small fields and about half of a larger field (about 60 acres total injured). Liquid nitrogen fertilizer had already been applied to meet all nitrogen requirements. Four to 5 days before the injury was observed, all corn fields were sprayed with an application of Halex GT + Atrazine. Immediately prior to that herbicide application to the corn, the sprayer had been loaned to a neighbor that was spraying soybean PREs.

In the middle of the largest field, there was a noticeable, straight separation line where injury was much more severe (left) versus where injury nearly disappeared (right) (Picture 2). After discussions with the farmer, it was learned that at this point in the field, the sprayer had been emptied (first load after receiving the sprayer back from the neighbor) and a second tank load of Halex GT + Atrazine was mixed to finish out the field.

So based on the information presented, what do you suspect caused the injury on the corn? If you suspect herbicide injury, be specific on the herbicide. But remember, although this is a weed science contest, there is always a chance I'm being a trickster and presenting a different problem to you as well. 😊 Also, what is your explanation as to why the problem occurred?

Just for some added information regarding this situation:

- There is nothing that can or should be done at this point in time to correct this problem. We just need to let it grow and monitor it through the season. As picture 1 shows, new leaves are emerging and appear healthy.
- It is difficult to predict yield loss, but based on the severity of this injury, there is probably somewhere around a 10-20% yield loss due to this problem.

To win a prize, be the first to email me at tbutts@uada.edu with the correct herbicide causing the injury AND why the injury occurred.

Picture 1.

Picture 2.