

## **Herbicides for Stalk Destruction**

Texas has almost six million acres involved in boll weevil eradication programs, and timely stalk destruction is the key to boll weevil management. The standard approach to destroying stalks is to shred and uproot them with a plow or a stalk puller. Generally, this is a successful approach, but some stalks may survive these operations. Last year we had numerous fields in the eastern production regions that were sprayed for weevils for extended periods following harvest. In addition, many growers are practicing reduced tillage and prefer not to disturb the soil. An alternative approach to tillage is to use a registered herbicide for stalk destruction. Our most recent field research indicates that 2,4-D amine is a very effective and economical product for cotton stalk destruction. To obtain optimum results, stalks should be shredded and the spray application should be made soon after shredding. In many cases, it may take two applications of 2,4-D for complete kill. The first application should be at the rate of one pound of active ingredient per acre, while the second spraying can be one-half to one pound per acre. The second application will control any remaining live stalks and germinated seedlings. Please send me an email if you would like a copy of a new publication SCS-2003-10 that addresses cotton stalk destruction.