

# **Biology and Management of Herbicide-Resistant Palmer amaranth in Cotton in the United States**

**World Cotton Research Conference**

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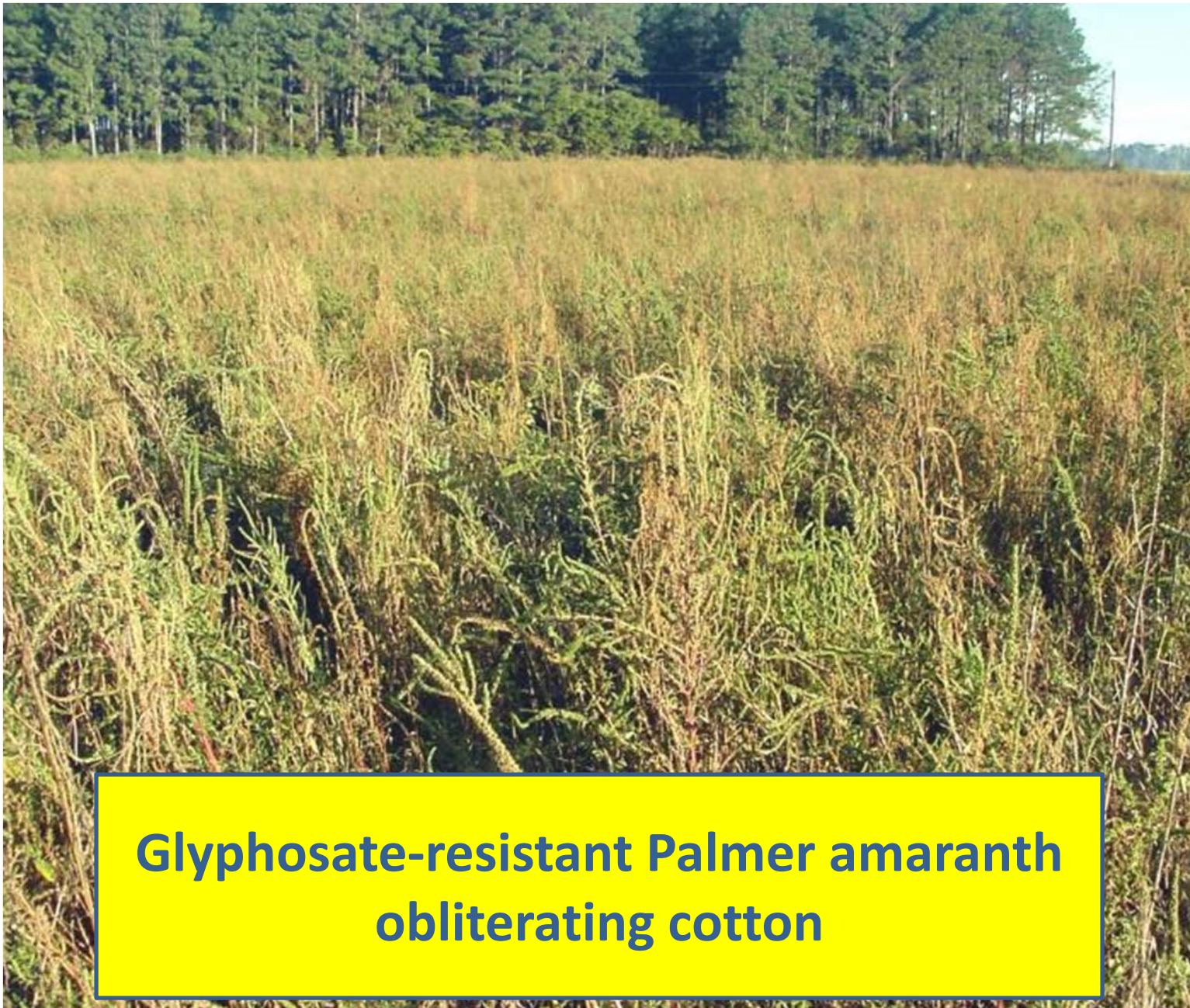
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**Glyphosate-Resistant Palmer amaranth  
impeding cotton harvest**





**Glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth  
obliterating cotton**

## Dioecious Amaranth *Species*; aka Pigweeds

Palmer Amaranth



Waterhemp





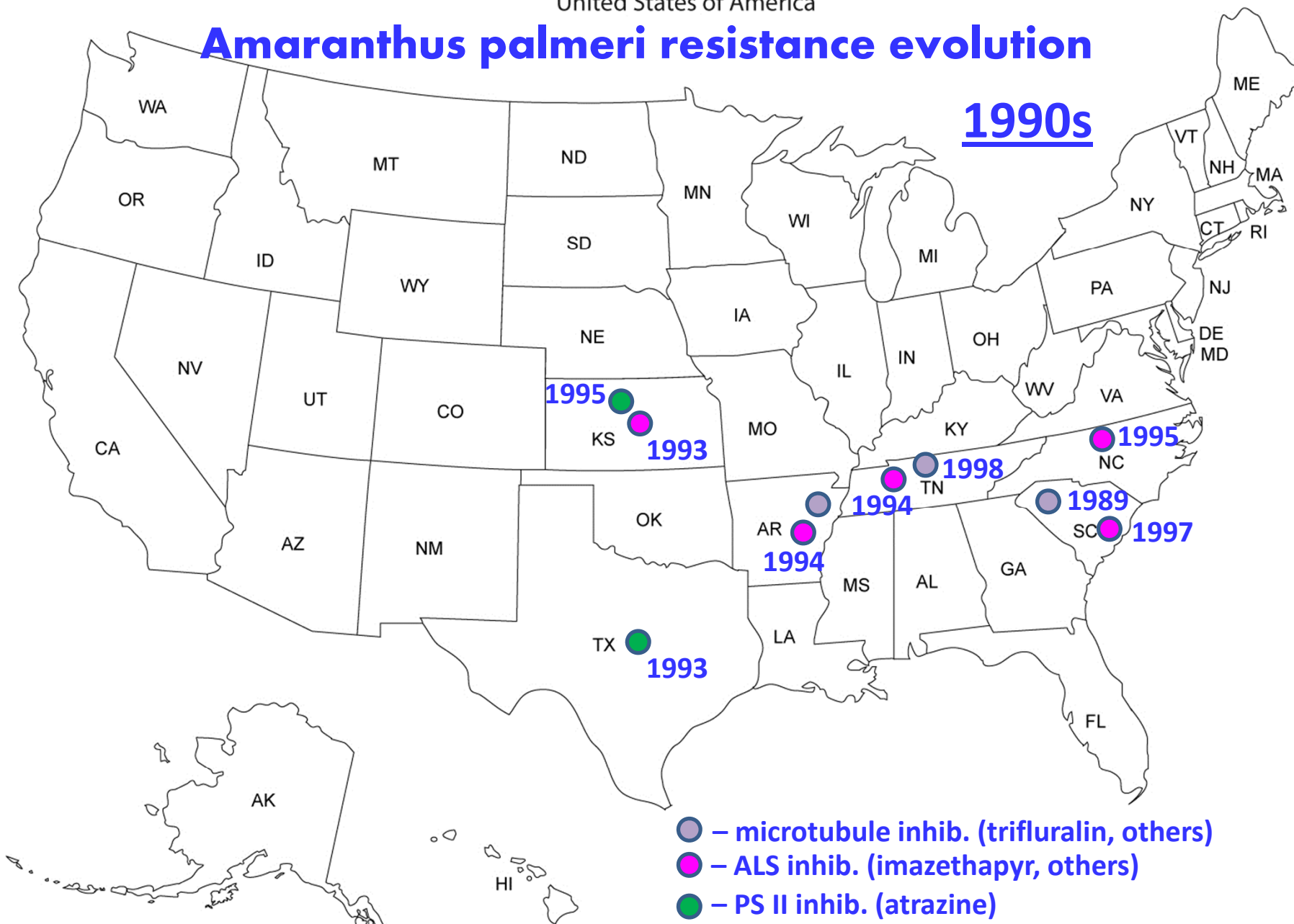
# Two Dioecious amaranths in North America

- *Amaranthus tuberculatus* – Tall Waterhemp
  - Midwest; heavy soils - South Central
- *Amaranthus palmeri* – Palmer amaranth, Palmer pigweed
  - light soils - South & many soils Southwest
- The two dicots resistant to the most herbicide modes of action ( 6 each)
  - *A. palmeri* is invading the Midwest

United States of America

# Amaranthus palmeri resistance evolution

1990s

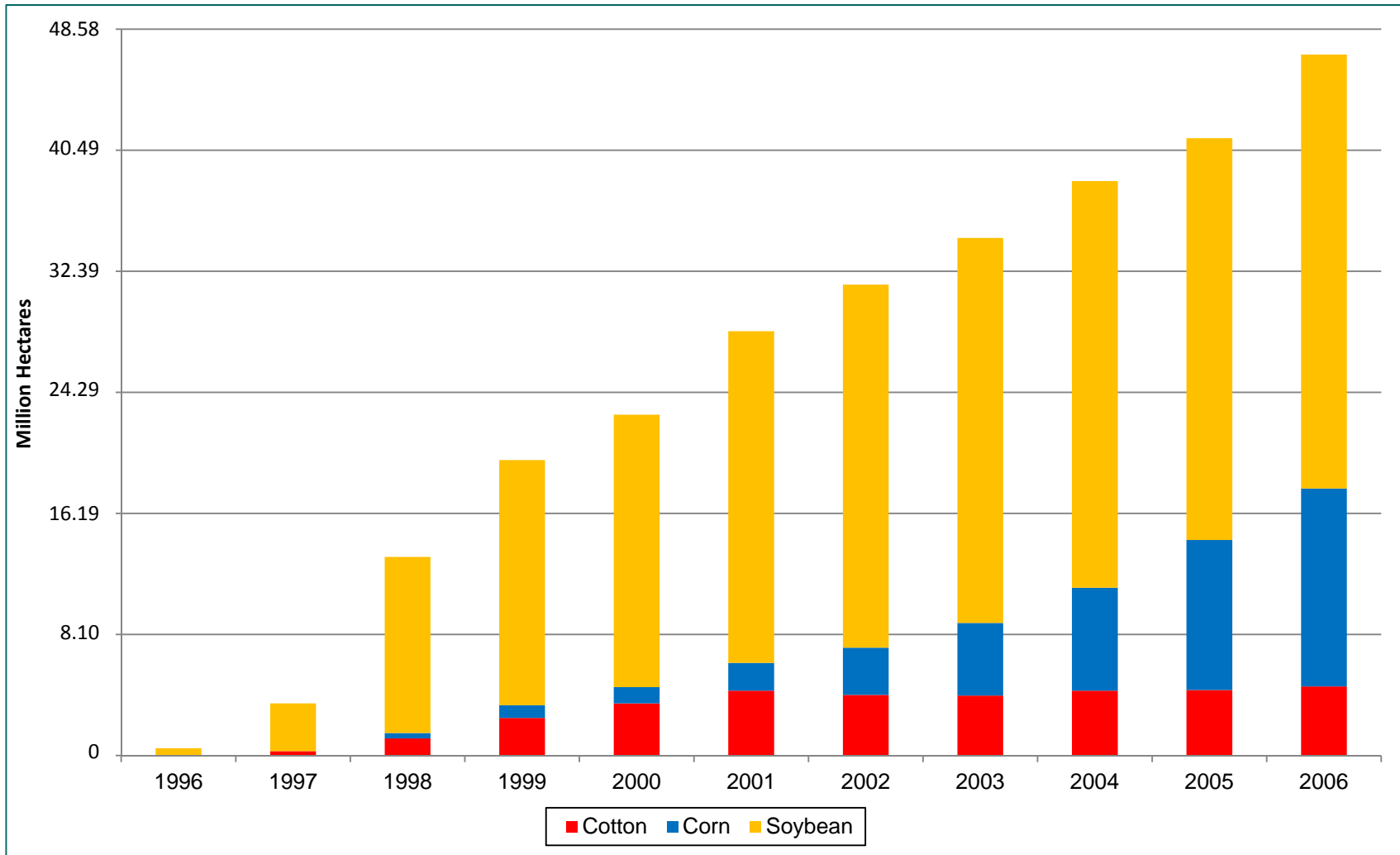


Heap (2016) The International Survey of Herbicide Resistant Weeds. Available [www.weedscience.org](http://www.weedscience.org)

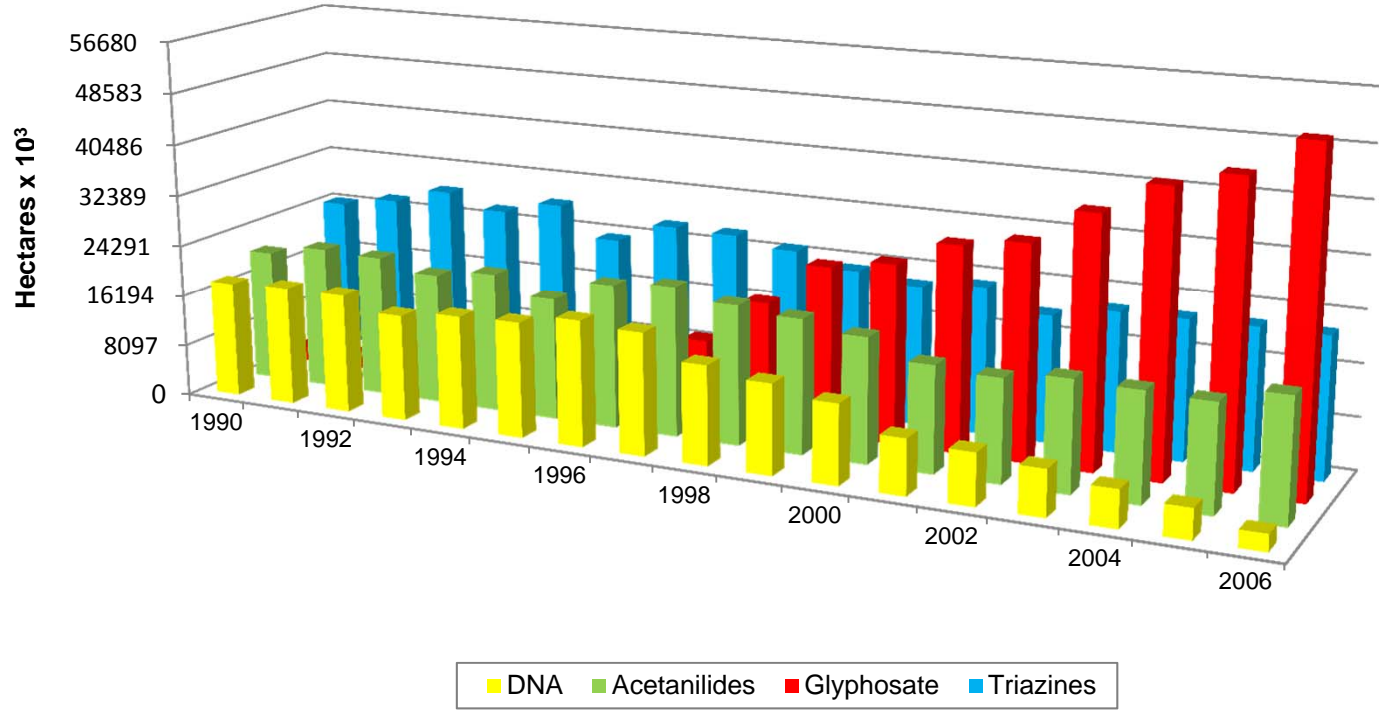
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## Hectares of Glyphosate-Resistant Crop Cultivars

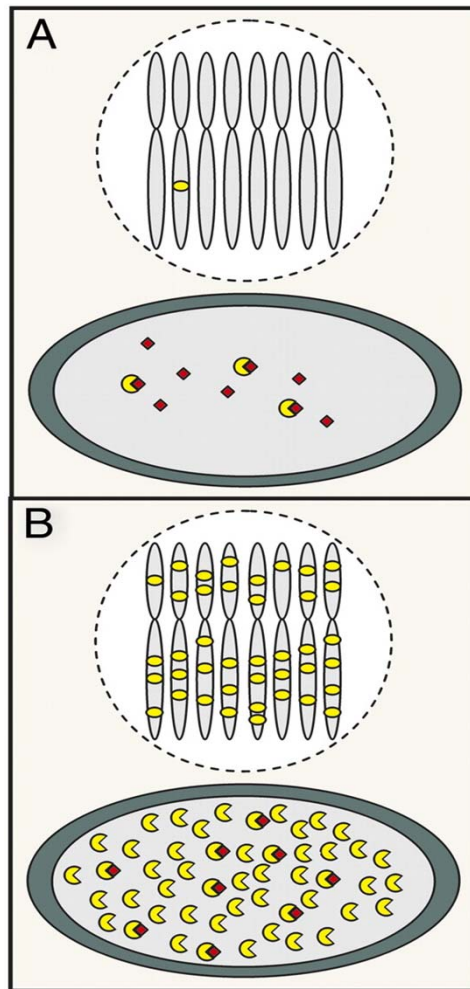


# Total Hectares Exposed to Herbicide Modes of Action for Corn, Soybean, Cotton





# EPSPS Gene Duplication: Glyphosate Resistance Mechanism



Susceptible

Powles, PNAS 2010;107:955-956

Resistant

- Resistant plants have much more EPSPS
- Extra gene copies are located on multiple chromosomes
- Gaines et al. 2010. Gene amplification confers glyphosate resistance in *Amaranthus palmeri*. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 107:1029-1034.

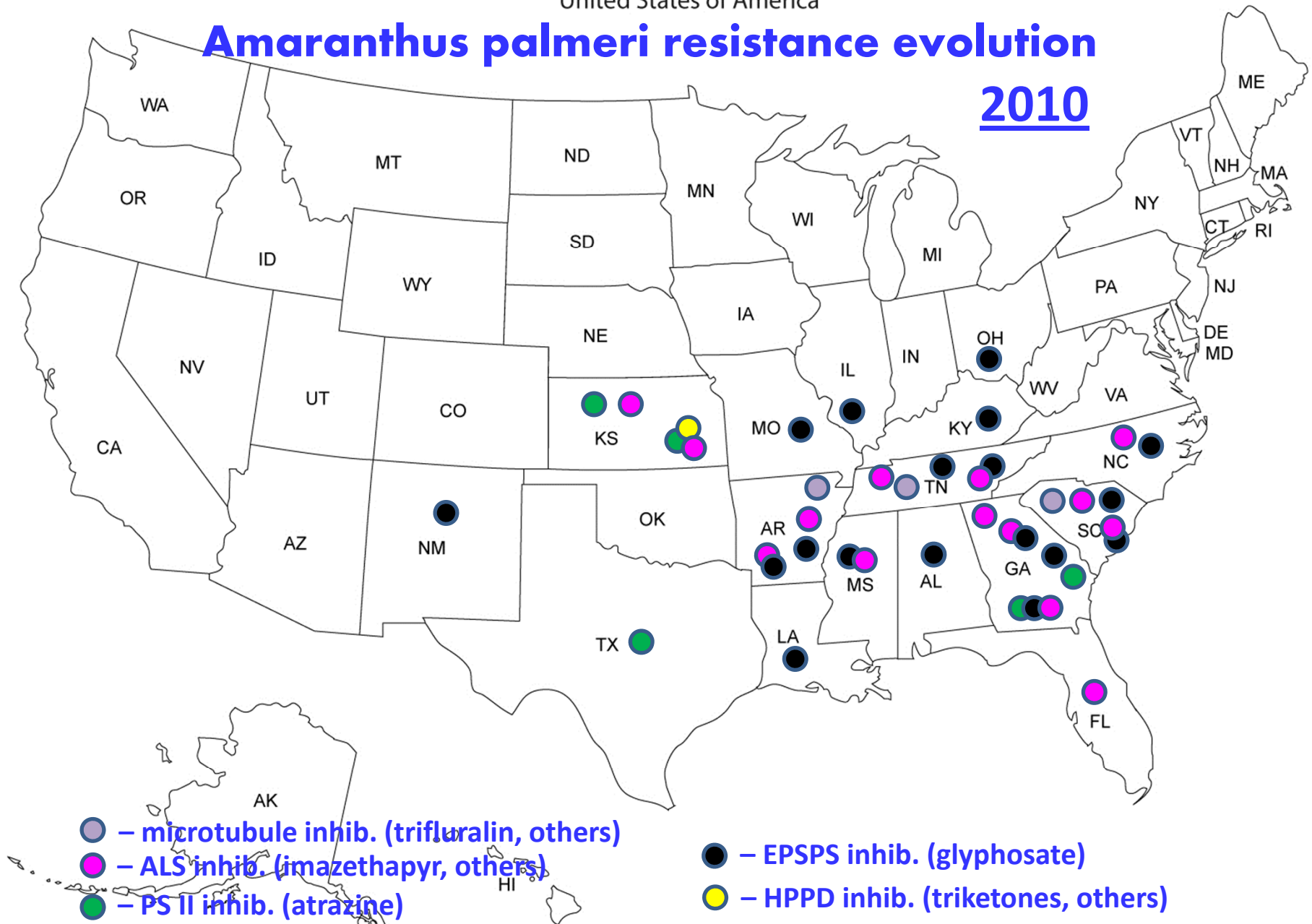




United States of America

# Amaranthus palmeri resistance evolution

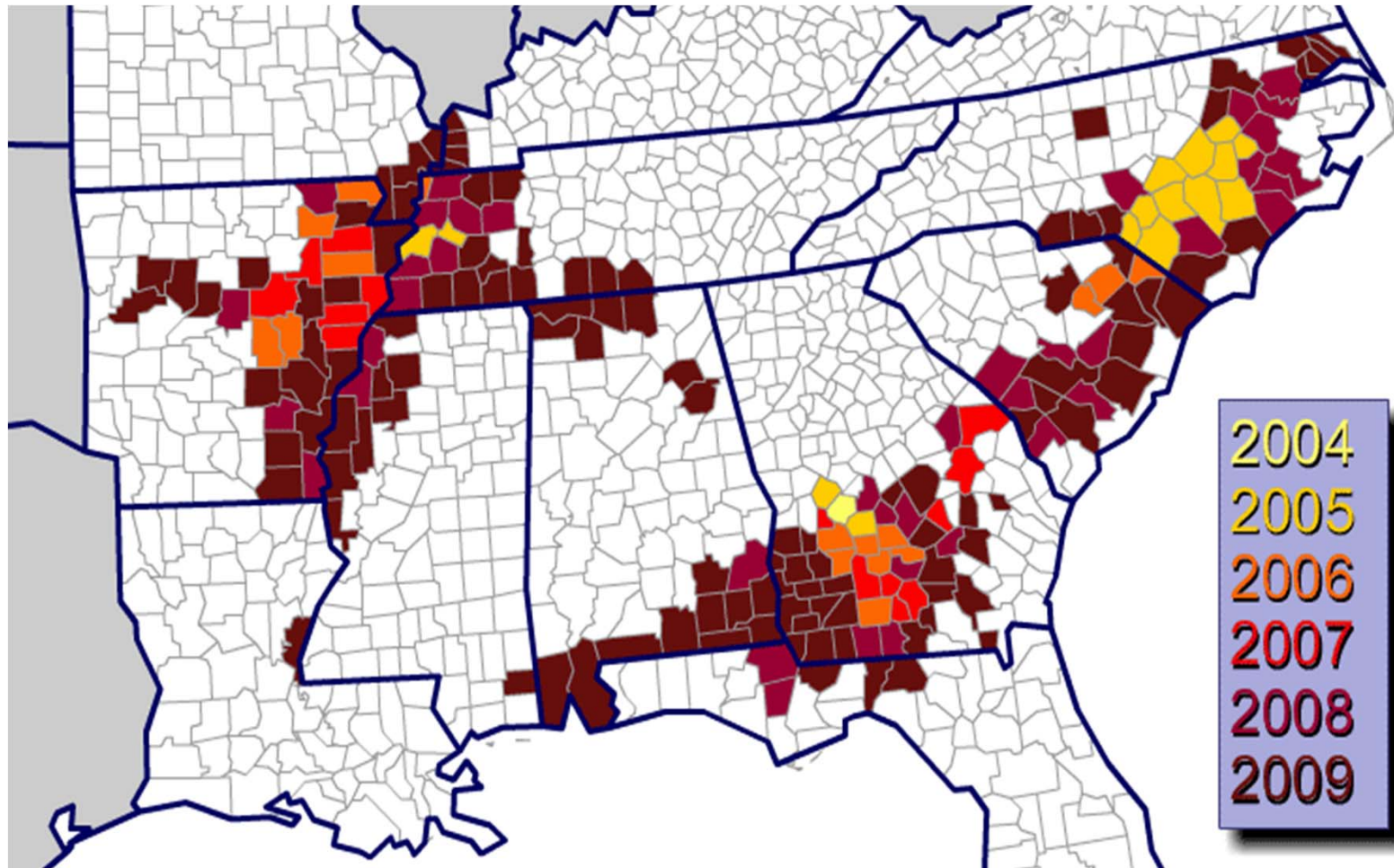
2010



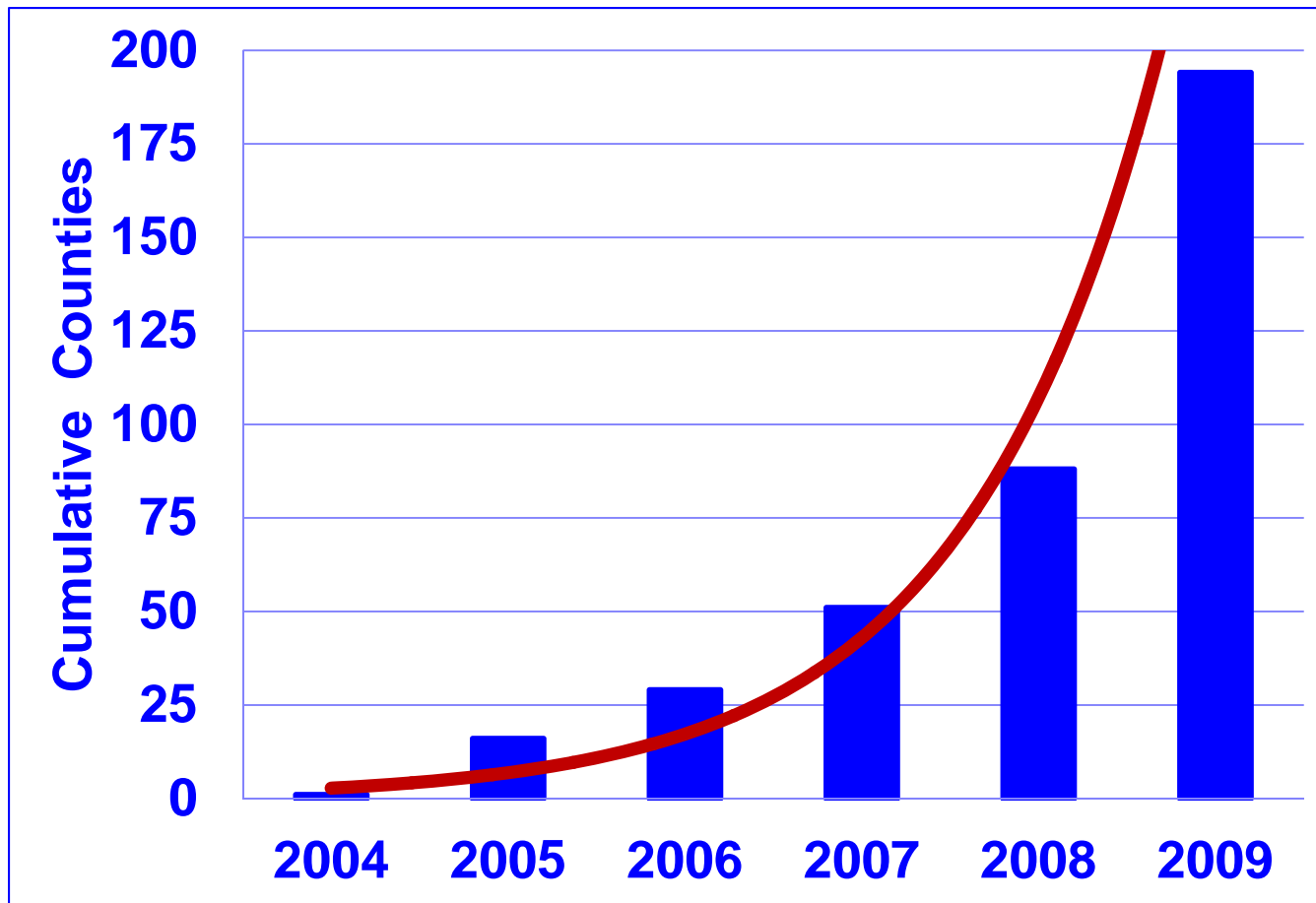
Heap (2016). Available [www.weedscience.org](http://www.weedscience.org)

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# Expansion of Glyphosate-Resistant Palmer amaranth – counties infested

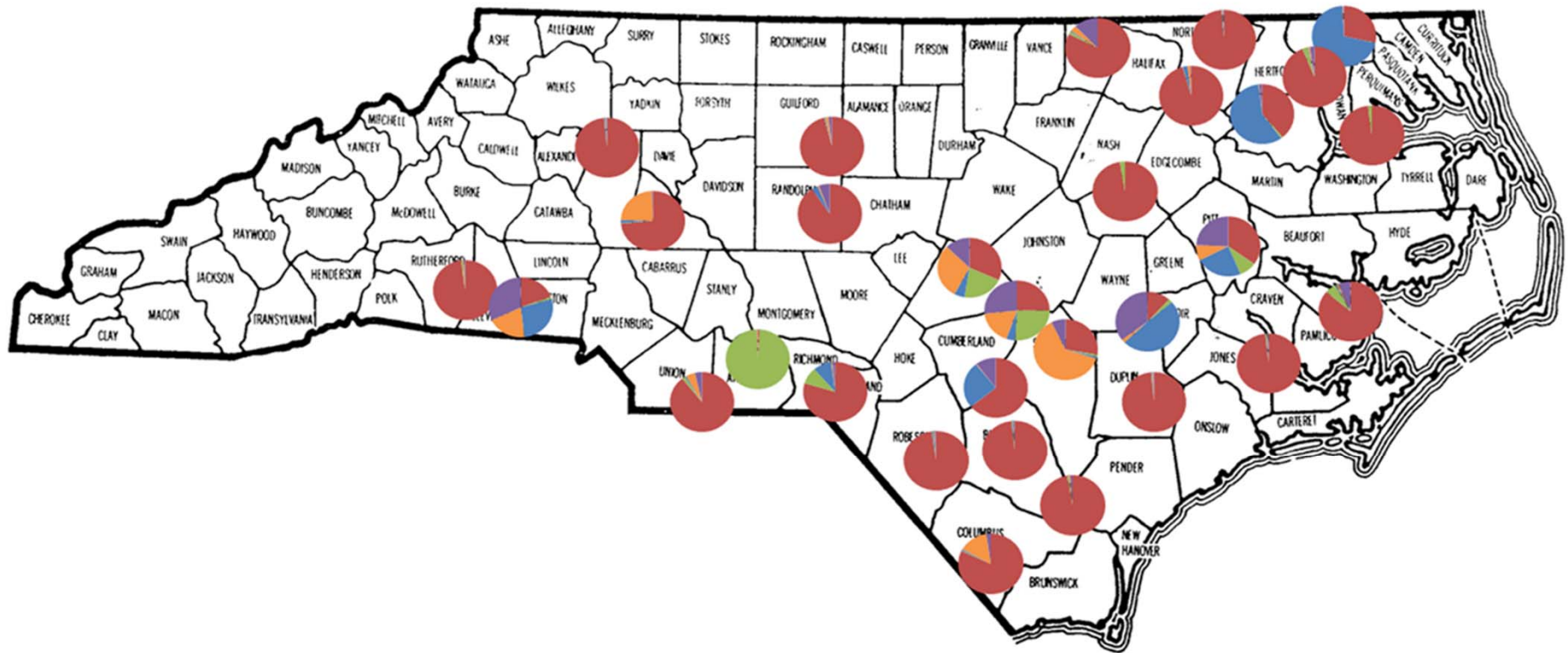


# Counties with Glyphosate-Resistant Palmer Amaranth



# Population Genetics of Glyphosate Resistance in Palmer amaranth

- Distribution of Genotypes in North Carolina - 2009

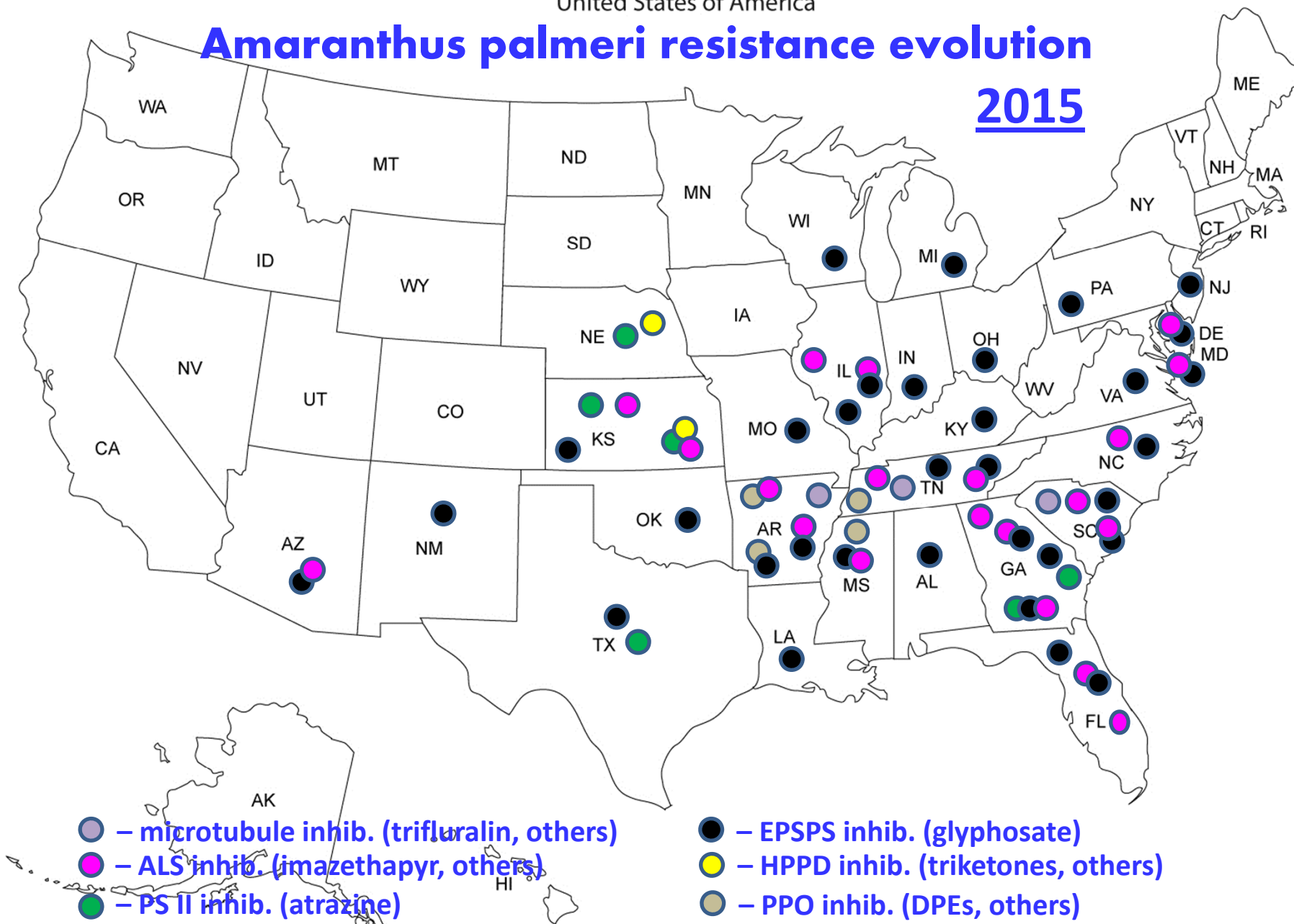




United States of America

# Amaranthus palmeri resistance evolution

2015



Heap (2016). Available [www.weedscience.org](http://www.weedscience.org)

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# **Impacts of Glyphosate-Resistant Palmer amaranth**

- **Increase complexity and costs of weed management in cotton and soybean**
- **Compromise conservation tillage in the short-term**
- **May precipitate a cascade of resistance in post emergence broadleaf herbicides**

# Glyphosate Resistant Palmer amaranth

## Economic Threat to Soybeans

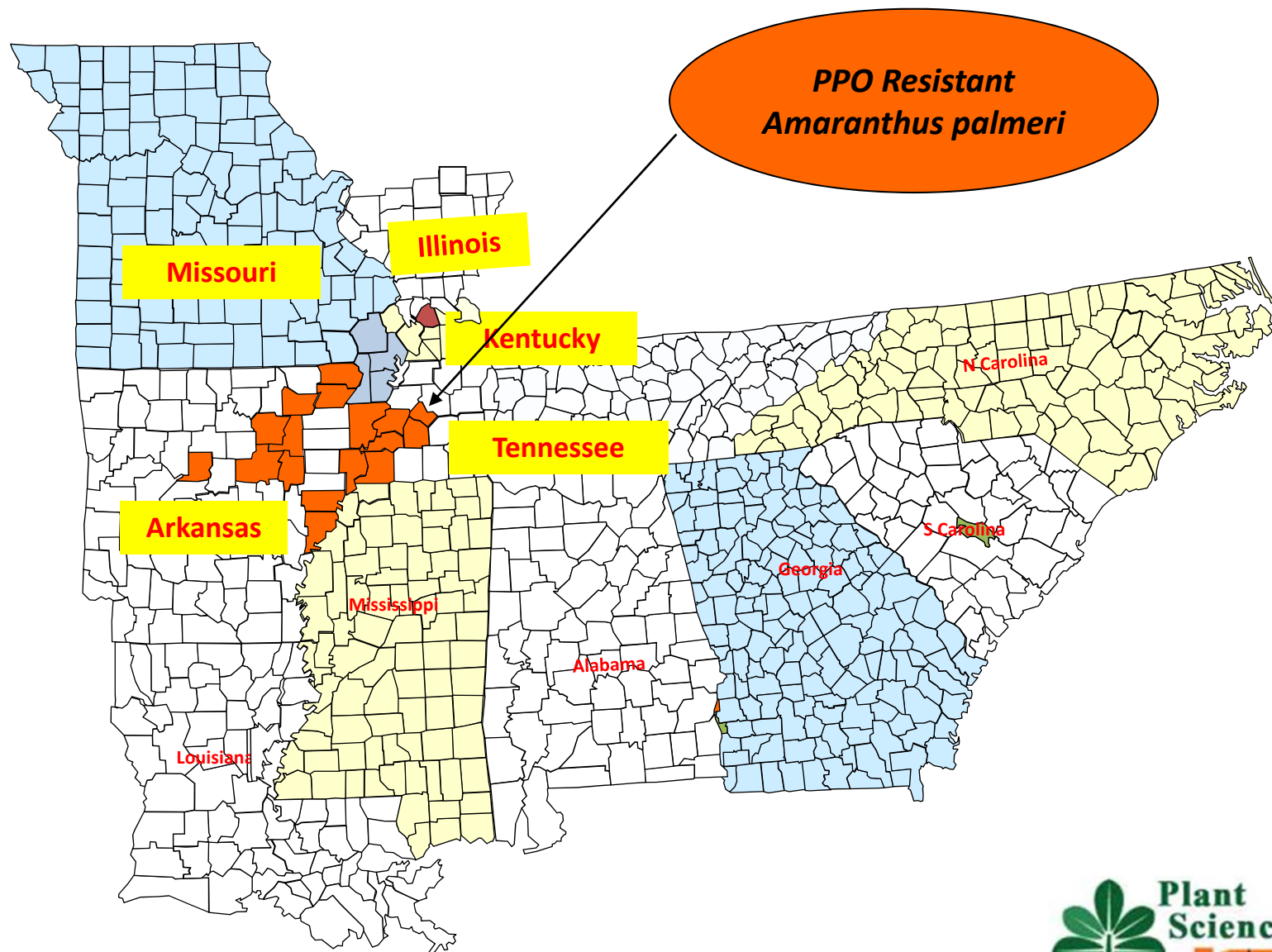
If ALS and glyphosate are compromised, **PPO herbicides are the only post emergence option except glufosinate**

## Economic Threat to Cotton

PPO herbicides are not an over-the-top option. If ALS herbicides and glyphosate are compromised, there are **no selective post emergence options except glufosinate**

Nichols, R. L. 2010 – “Pigposium”,  
Forest City, Arkansas

# Glyphosate and PPO - Resistant Palmer amaranth



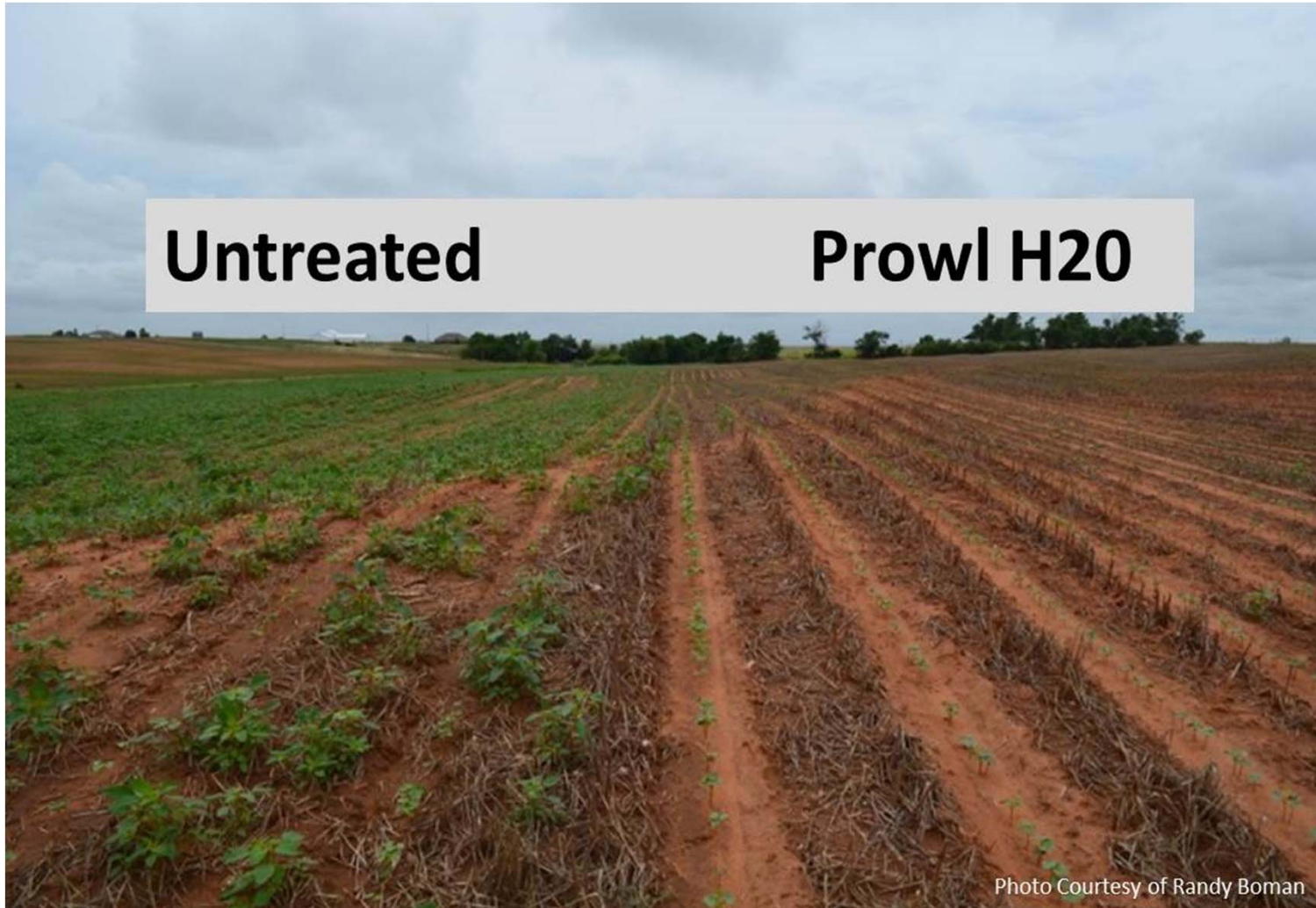




**Palmer amaranth Resistant to Glyphosate  
and PPO Inhibiting Herbicides**



# Soil-Active Herbicides are a Must



# Greater Selection Pressure on Glufosinate

- Glyphosate is still a very useful herbicide, but
- Palmer amaranth is the 'driver' weed in the system.
- When glyphosate, ALS, and PPO herbicides fail, the only post option is glufosinate.
- Traits that will be used:
- Gytol Liberty Link, Wide Strike, and Xtend Flex.



# 2015 – Demonstration No-till Drip Field

(Confirmed glyphosate resistant pigweed in 2014)

Total costs to control resistant pigweed in cotton this year



Liberty Link Systems  
ST 4946 GLB2

\$129/acre



Roundup Ready Flex System (no dicamba)  
DP 1522 B2XF

\$126/acre



# Conservation Tillage

- **Most Economical; Saves Money, Soil, and Water**
- **Herbicides Replace Tillage**
- **Have Depended on Glyphosate**
- **Replace with Cover Crops and Alternative Herbicides**





# Using Heavy Rye Covers For Sustainability



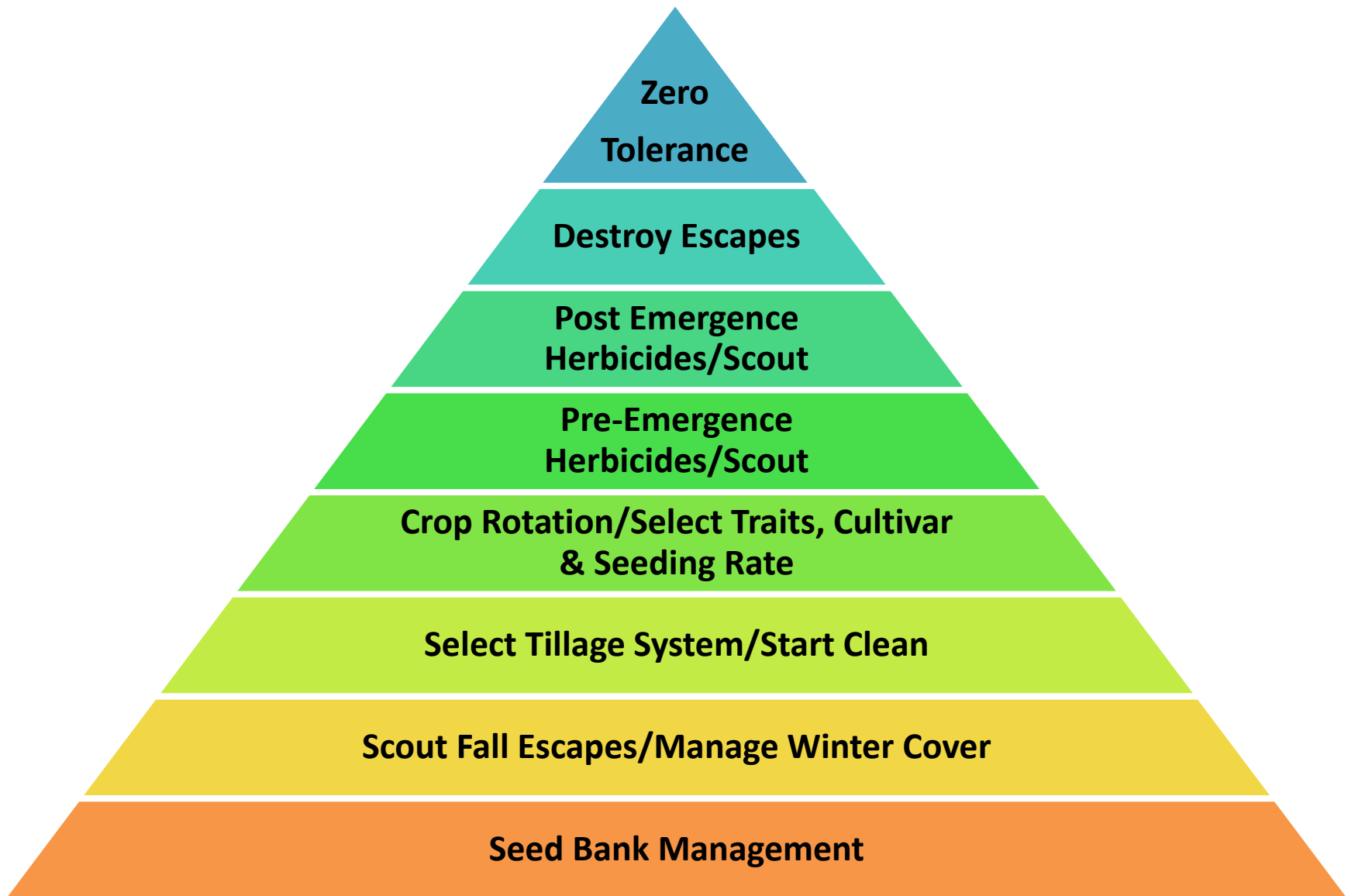
**Rye Cover**

**Weedy Cover**

# **Managing the Weed Seed Bank - The New Paradigm -**

- **Not sufficient to control emerged weeds**
- **Unless the number of emerged weeds is decreasing every year, then it's increasing**
- **At some point 99% control will fail**
- **Rogue escapes in the crop**
- **Control emerged weeds following harvest**







# Community-Based Programs

**“Zero”**

**U of A** UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

No  
Escapes  
Allowed



No  
Seed  
Produced

Soil Weed Seedbank  
Reduction Program

**“Tolerance”**







## **Control with Trait-Based Auxin Herbicide Weed Management Program**

Alan York, NCSU





**Control with Trait-Based Auxin Herbicide Weed Management Program**



# Current Situation

- **Need New Weed Management Programs.**
- **Need to Save Conservation Tillage.**
- **Need to Implement Resistance Management -  
Manufacturers and Growers.**
- **Does Resistance Management Include  
Trait Management?**

# Weed Management Theme

## Herbicide Stewardship



**Protecting**  
*Crops*  
*Environment*  
*Technology*