

Six Simple Rules for Discussing Herbicide Efficacy

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Weed control successes and failures often originate not with the treatment, but well before in the form of poor communication regarding potential treatments.

Define “Success”

“...techniques used alone or in combination that result in a timely, consistent, and substantial reduction of a target plant population to levels that alleviate an existing or potential impairment to the uses or functions of the system.”

Define “Failure”

When a treatment that is expected to provide a certain level of control falls short of that “timely, consistent, and substantial reduction of a target plant population...”

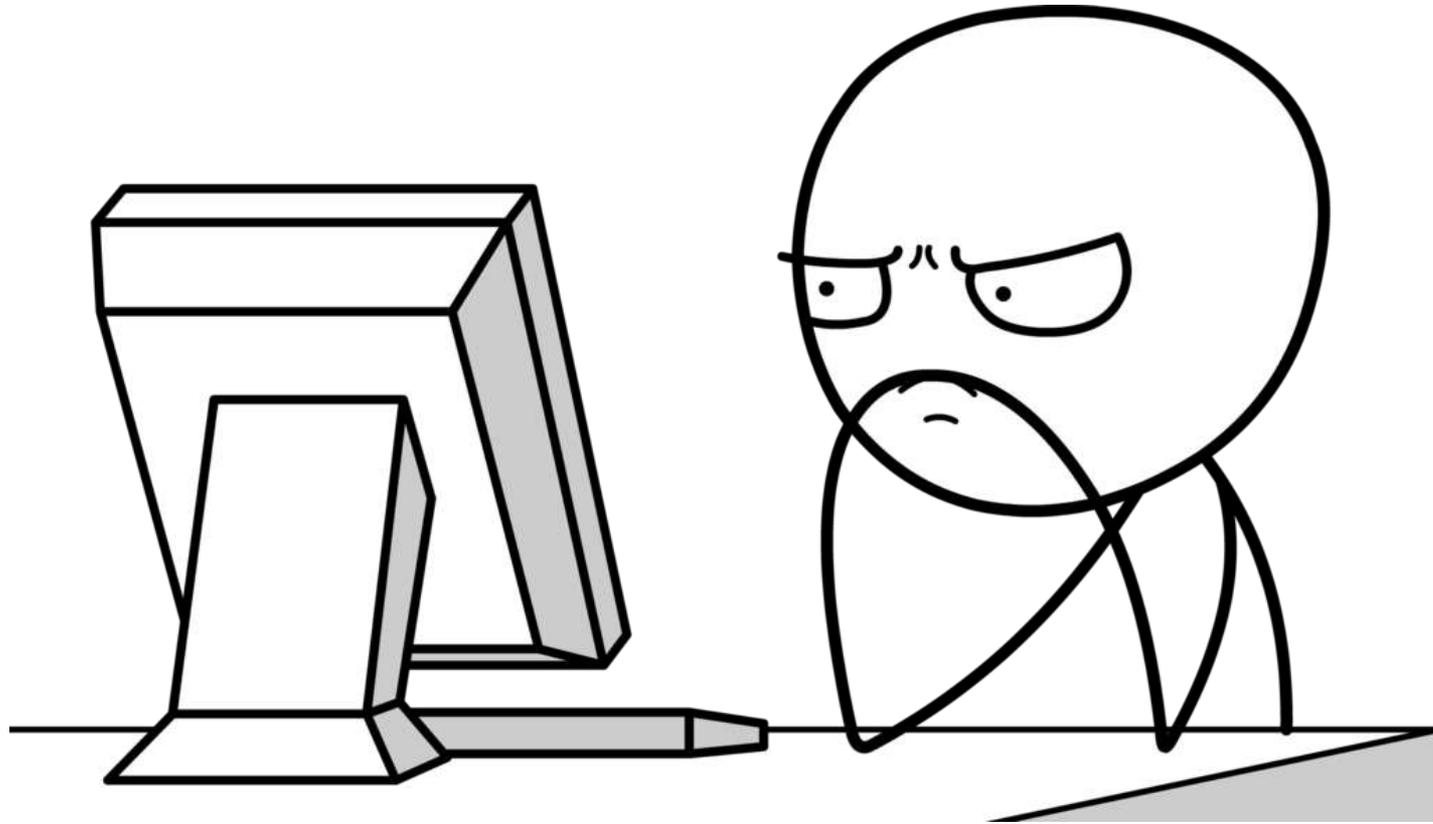
We are not talking about a failure to achieve “silver bullet success”

“A conversation about herbicide efficacy should be stepwise and science-based, but instead it often comes across like folks at the water cooler telling war stories”

Expectation: Applicators intensely listening to IFAS Specialist talk on herbicide efficacy



Expectation: Applicators intensely studying IFAS fact sheets on weed control



Reality: The way many applicators learn about herbicide efficacy



Blah blah blah
herbicide
blah blah blah



Wow. I gotta
try that!



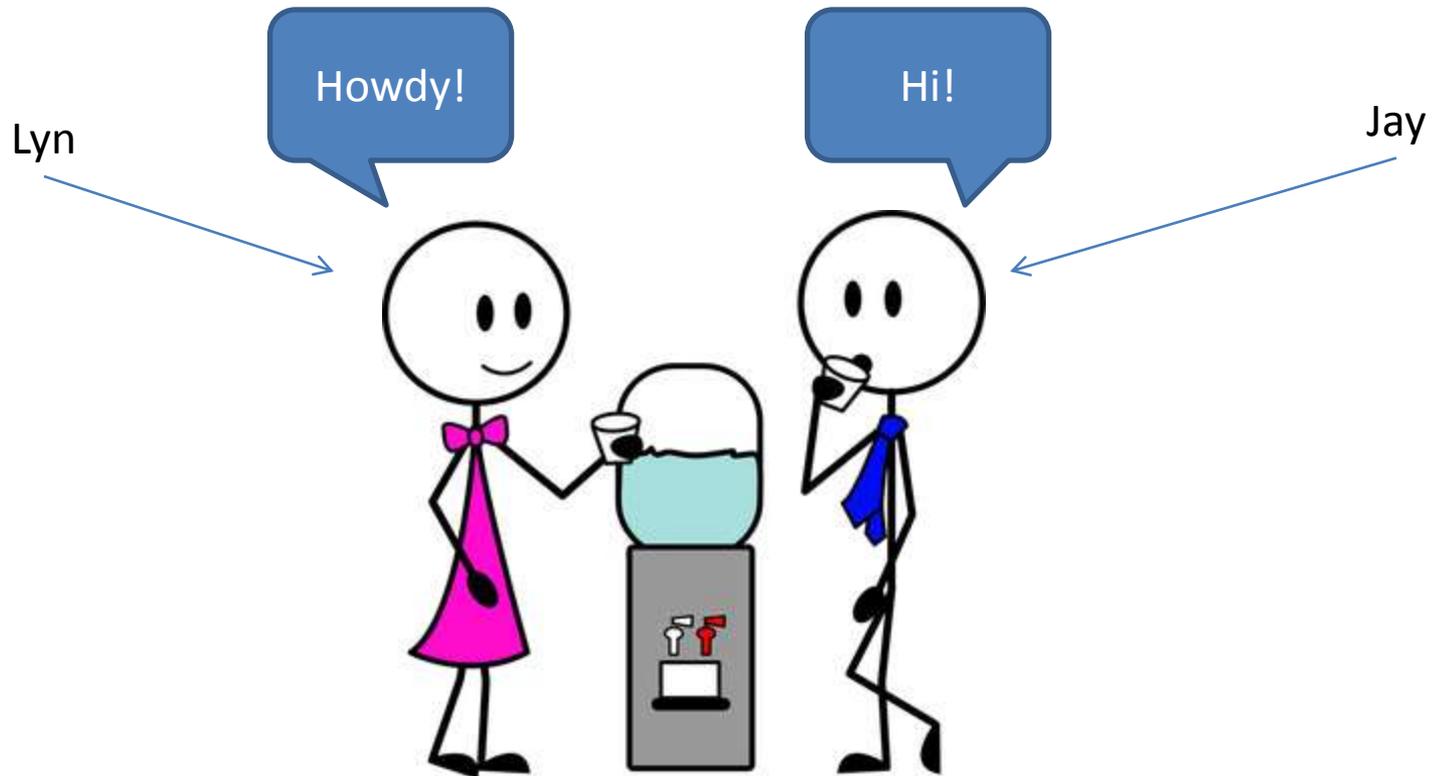
Yep.

Why is this important?

- Not everyone has your herbicide training
- Not everyone has your applicator experience
- Not everyone can read your mind
- Not everyone has made the mistakes you've already made

Six simple rules for discussing herbicide efficacy

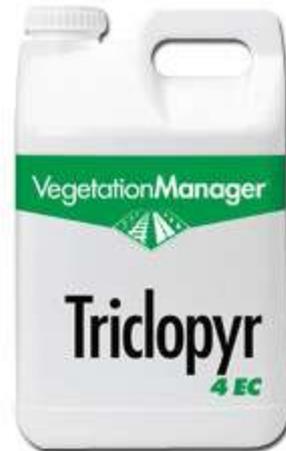
Let's meet those folks at the water cooler and follow the conversation



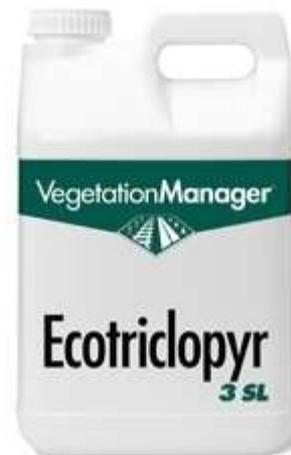
Rule #1. Provide the herbicide product name.



This is Triclopyr...



...and so is this.



Vastlan™

Bottom line on names

- The product name links you back to the label, which is legally binding
- The label provides the active ingredient, formulation, safety requirements, recommended rates, and much more
- Without the product name and label, you cannot be confident in what was actually applied

Rule #2. Specify the herbicide rate or concentration applied.

“Yep. We doused a patch of peppertree with triclopyr and it was toast!”

Lyn

Jay



How Rate and Concentration are Expressed

- Product/Acre
- Active ingredient/Acre
- Acid equivalent/Acre
- % product (%v/v or %vol/vol)
- ppm (parts per million)
- ppb (parts per billion)

Rule #3. Disclose any adjuvants added.

And you know, it works even better if you throw some surfactant in the tank too. That stuff really heats it up!

Lyn

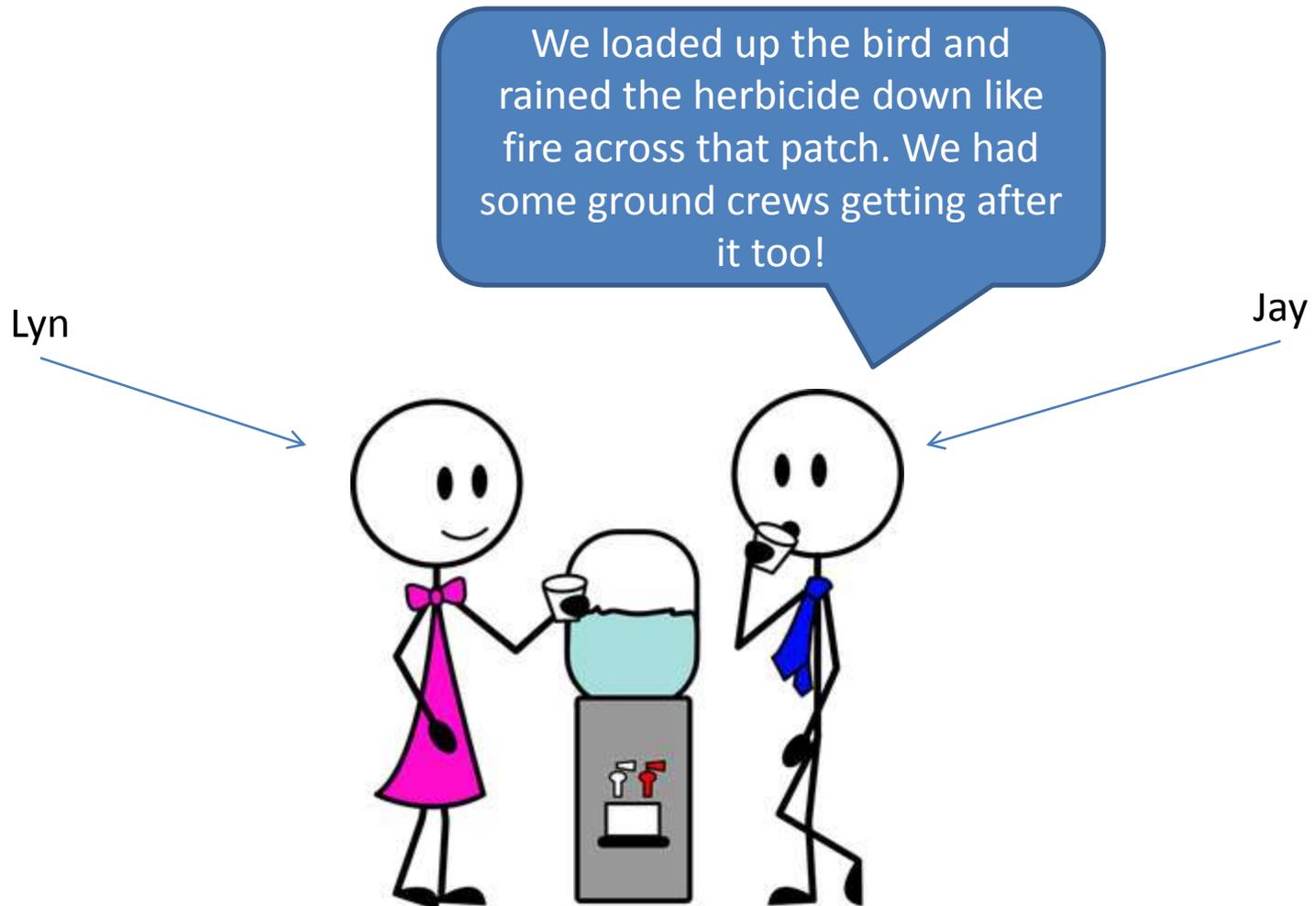
Jay



Why is this important?

- There are hundreds of adjuvants available
- Adjuvants fulfill many roles in improving the action of the herbicide
 - Surfactants, wetting agents, stickers, spreaders, buffering agents, anti-foaming agents and more
- Not all adjuvants are labeled for use on all sites
- There may be compatibility issues for certain adjuvant/herbicide combinations

Rule #4. State the method of application.

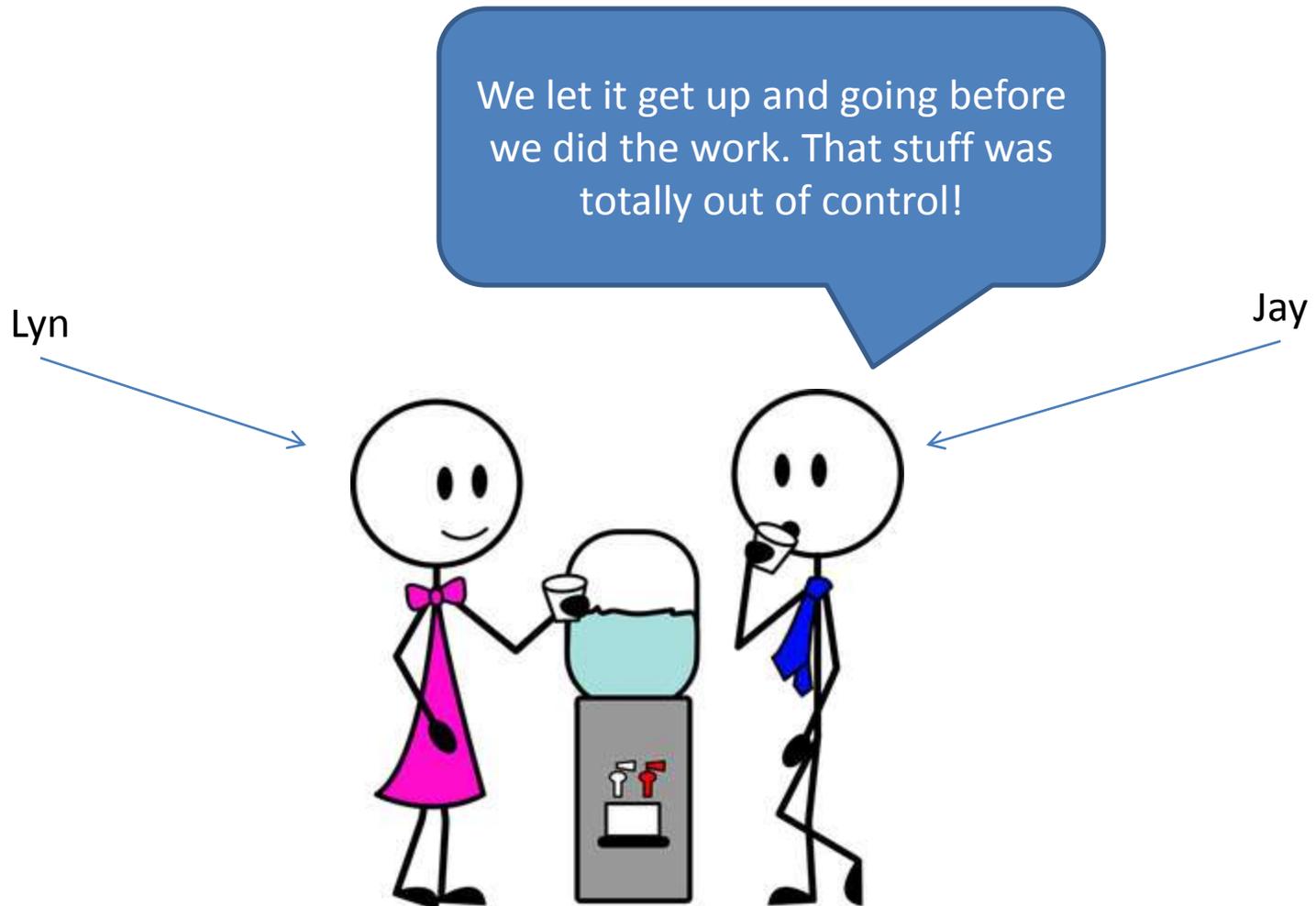


Application methods can strongly impact efficacy





Rule #5. Explain the target's growth stage and abundance.



Growth stage and abundance can influence efficacy



Control now



Fail later

Growth stage can influence efficacy



Too early (bad)



Full leaf out (good)

Bleeder trees in the early Spring



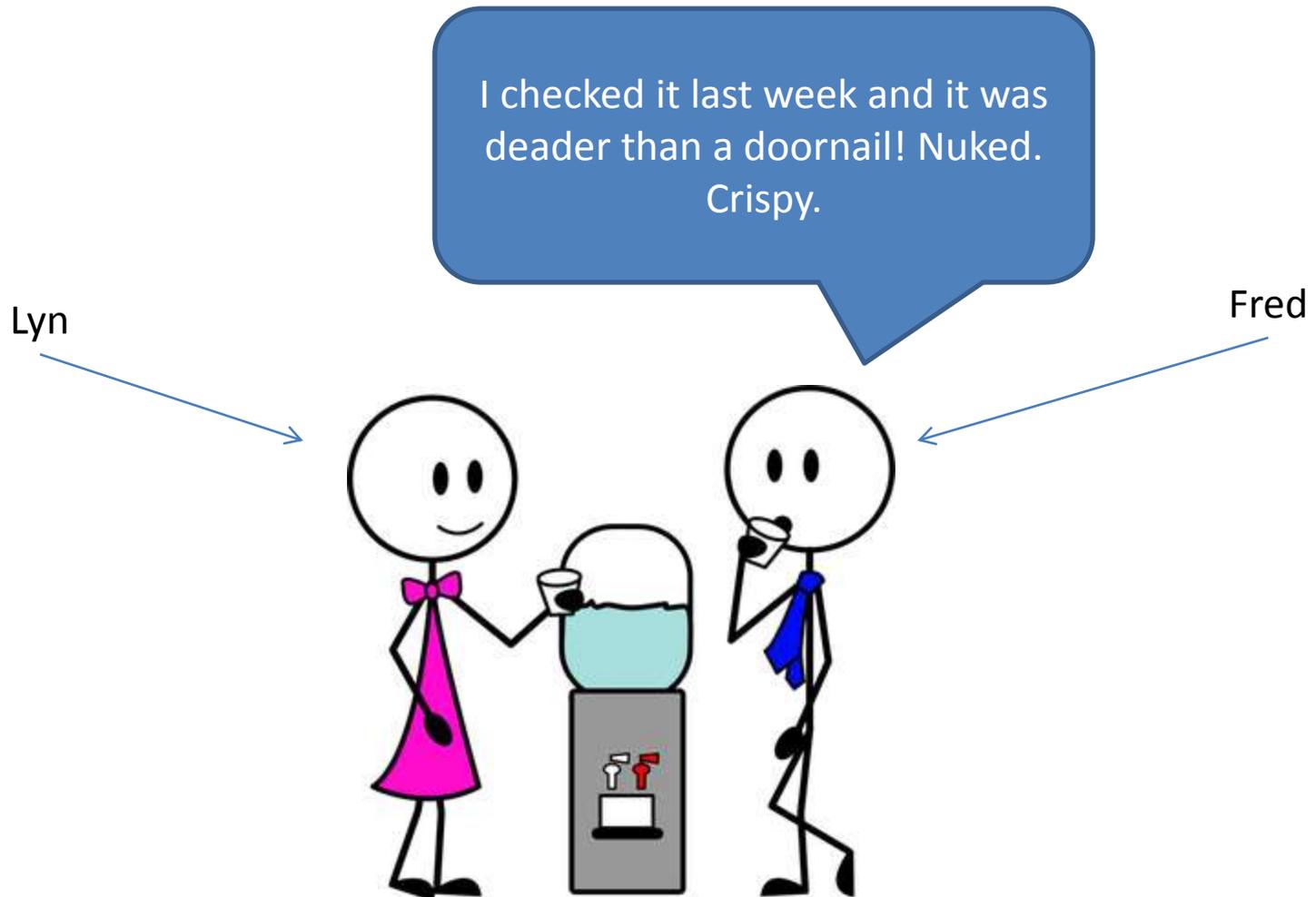
Heavy dense growth may reduce spray coverage and subsequent efficacy, requiring followup



Dense smothering growth of old world climbing fern



Rule #6. Provide the criteria for evaluation after treatment.



Crispy cogongrass shoots may not mean much if...



...if you dig and find live, healthy rhizomes



How this conversation ends...



RECAP: Six Simple Rules for Discussing Herbicide Efficacy

1. Provide the herbicide product name
2. Specify the rate or concentration applied
3. Disclose any adjuvants added
4. State the method of application
5. Explain the target growth stage and abundance
6. Provide the criteria for evaluation after treatment

Questions?

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