



Volume: 11 Issue: 14



#### **USDA TO RELEASE DROUGHT-TOLERANT SOYBEAN LINE**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service will soon release a soybean breeding line offering drought-tolerant traits. Funded in part by the soybean checkoff, plant geneticist Tommy Carter and his team of researchers narrowed down an original supply of over 5,000 varieties to five. These varieties display the slow-wilting trait and good yield potential under normal rainfall conditions. According to Carter, the slow-wilting lines yield four to eight bushels better than conventional varieties under drought conditions. Following a final round of testing, Carter hopes to publicly release the drought-tolerant lines soon. Some southern breeding companies have already begun using the materials. For more information, click [here](#).

#### **BASF COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF CIBA**

BASF has completed its acquisition of Ciba Holding AG with the payment of the offer price to Ciba shareholders. The tendered shares were transferred to BASF that now holds 95.8% of Ciba and intends to fully integrate Ciba into the BASF Group. The integration process will start with a discovery phase. During this phase, joint teams consisting of BASF and Ciba employees will analyze the acquired businesses in depth. The goal of the analysis is to define a market-oriented positioning for the combined businesses as well as the optimal organizational structure. The actual integration process will start in July 2009 on the basis of these results. For more information, click [here](#).

**Broad-spectrum control of early season weeds for maximum yield potential in Roundup Ready® corn.**

Dow AgroSciences  
**SureStart™**  
Herbicide

### **ARCADIA AND ADVANTA TO DEVELOP SORGHUM**

Arcadia Biosciences, Inc. and Advanta have reached a research and commercial agreement for the development of salt tolerant sorghum. Under terms of the agreement, Advanta receives exclusive global rights to the use of Arcadia's salt tolerance technology in sorghum. Arcadia receives an upfront payment, milestone payments and a share of commercial sales revenue. The deal builds upon the agreement the two companies reached in January 2009 for the development of nitrogen use efficient sorghum. Through the combination of technologies, Arcadia and Advanta anticipate development of a highly-efficient sweet sorghum biofuel crop that can create an alternative fuel source with significantly reduced environmental impact, low requirements for fresh water and more favorable economics than other potential biofuel sources. For more information, click [here](#).

### **BAYER AND BGU TO COLLABORATE ON PLANT STRESS**

Ben-Gurion University has established a research collaboration with Bayer BioScience to find solutions to extreme temperatures and limited water availability which are major stresses for plants and cause dramatic losses to agriculture around the world. The agreement builds upon the expertise and breakthrough results from Simon Barak's laboratory at the University's Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, a world leader in arid zone research. Barak's team is using a combination of approaches to identify genes that allow plants to tolerate the harsh environmental stresses characteristic of arid regions. Two of these genes have been studied in detail and the team found that by removing either of the two genes, the tolerance of the model plant, *Arabidopsis*, to heat, salt and drought could be increased. The agreement will allow the identification of additional genes that make plants stress-resistant. The study was recently published in the journal *Plant Physiology*. For more information, click [here](#).

### **ASTA BRINGS NEW FORMAT TO ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The American Seed Trade Association has unveiled a newly-reformatted Annual Convention, bringing a wealth of intensified educational sessions and networking opportunities for attendees at the upcoming event June 20 to 24 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The convention offers a unique opportunity to come together and learn the issues affecting the industry as a whole with representatives from every ASTA division, including corn, sorghum, soybean, vegetable, flower, lawn and farm seed, in addition to representatives from supplier companies and international partners. ASTA has geared its programming to deliver essential industry and economic information within an expanded educational program. Topics range from agricultural credit markets to global economics to the state of agribusiness and sustainability. The schedule also includes a series of educational breakout sessions on intellectual property rights, phytosanitary issues and the return of the popular State and Regional Associations Workshop. For more information, click [here](#).

The latest innovation in glyphosate technology for Roundup Ready® corn.

Dow AgroSciences  
**Durango**  
DMA  
Herbicide

The advertisement is a vertical rectangular graphic with a white background and maroon borders at the top and bottom. It features bold black text at the top and the Durango DMA Herbicide logo below. The logo includes the Dow AgroSciences logo, the word 'Durango' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, 'DMA' in a smaller font below it, and 'Herbicide' in a small font at the bottom of the logo.

### **MSU RECEIVES \$2 MILLION FOR AG RESEARCH**

Michigan State University researchers have been awarded more than \$2 million for research and outreach projects to continue growing Michigan's \$71.3 billion agri-food and agri-energy industries. For fiscal year 2009, 88 plant agriculture research projects will receive \$2.08 million in grant funding from Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs), Michigan's plant agriculture initiative at MSU. The project is a cooperative effort between plant-based commodities and businesses together with the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to advance Michigan's economy through plant-based agriculture. For more information, click [here](#).

### **CERES AND UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA FOCUS ON SWITCHGRASS**

Ceres, Inc. and University of Georgia researchers will work together to develop new, high-yielding switchgrass seed varieties and improved crop management techniques for the Southeastern US. Switchgrass, which can reach yields of 6 to 10 dry tonnes or more in the Southeast, is widely considered an ideal raw material for next-generation biofuels and biopower. The multi-year project will bring together plant breeders, agronomists and support scientists at Ceres and the University of Georgia to develop improved seed varieties. Ceres will have commercialization rights for products developed under the Ceres-funded project. The Noble Foundation will also participate in the project, including both field research and switchgrass breeding lines. For more information, click [here](#).

### **USDA RELEASES LETTUCE RESISTANT TO BACTERIAL LEAF SPOT**

Seven new iceberg lettuce breeding lines with resistance to bacterial leaf spot have been released by Agricultural Research Service scientists. BLS, caused by the pathogen *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *Vitians*, thrives in wet, cool conditions and causes black spots to form on lettuce leaves. According to ARS geneticist Ryan Hayes, creating disease-resistant breeding lines is the most efficient and cost-effective tool to manage BLS in lettuce. ARS provides these lines to seed companies, which in turn use them to develop new iceberg varieties for commercial use. Limited samples of seed from these breeding lines are available from the ARS unit in Salinas, California to researchers and seed companies. For more information, click [here](#).

### **FRONTIER HYBRIDS JOINS AGVENTURE**

Texas-based Frontier Hybrids has joined AgVenture. The family-founded and owned company will continue to provide its customers the agronomic service and support they trust. "Joining AgVenture allows us to keep doing what we do well while greatly enhancing our corn and alfalfa product offerings through the proven AgVenture model," says Trent Ryan, Frontier President. "We are pleased to make this move for our customers and proud to become AgVenture

Frontier Hybrids." AgVenture Frontier Hybrids' territory spans 900,000 corn acres in the High Plains region including parts of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. For more information, click [here](#).



**I come with high-yielding genetics.**

---

Just as seed piracy hurts seed research, forwarding this newsletter hurts our research.  
If you would like someone to receive Seed Week, we would be pleased to help them subscribe.

Seed Week - the weekly summary of seed-related news is brought to you by Seed World  
[issues@issuesink.com](mailto:issues@issuesink.com) | (877) 710-3222

\*Herculex and the Herculex Shield Logo  
are trademarks of Dow AgroSciences LLC.  
Herculex *Insect Protection* technology  
by Dow AgroSciences and Pioneer Hi-Bred.