

Seeds *for* Success

Agronomy Update

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Agronomy Update

is a monthly publication provided to producers free of charge. AgVenture, Inc. and its independently owned and operated Regional Seed Companies are dedicated to providing producers exceptional seed products – genetics and technologies, professional service, and local knowledge of agronomic conditions impacting producer profitability.

Grow with Confidence!

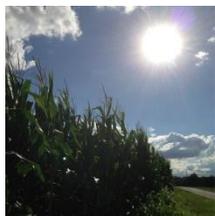


Photo MPR

Planting Patience Pays Off Those extra steps and planting time are paying off. Around the country, AgVenture Yield Specialists and Product and Technology team members report that crops are thriving where growers took the time to plant carefully and methodically this spring. AgVenture's Louis Sutton said, "Those nit-picky details can be frustrating at planting when we are geared to quickly get the seed in the ground. But this year has provided some outstanding examples of how AgVenture's planting tools and techniques can optimize the crop's potential to thrive in most any environment."

With crops across the country experiencing the gamut of conditions - from drought, to ideal, to cool and damp conditions, Sutton notes that even plant spacing, planting depth and seed placement work together to provide each seed with more consistent access to sunlight and soil nutrients. "Even stands promote ideal silking and pollination environments. You can see a remarkable difference in these fields. Carefully planted fields are faring better even where growing conditions are challenging. It's gratifying to see the results thus far as we approach harvest."

Stay on Top of the Soybean Crop AgVenture's Jeff Shaner reminds growers, "Don't ever give up on the crop. Soybeans are a resilient crop that can often overcome challenges of insects, disease and poor weather conditions." Shaner encourages growers to closely monitor insects and disease and use the appropriate fungicides and/or insecticides that can help the crop overcome its challenges. "Don't skimp. The time and money you invest in protecting that crop has great potential to pay you back. Manage that crop closely all the way through harvest. The results can be very rewarding!"

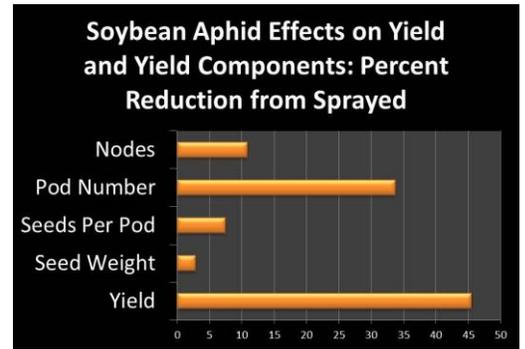
Fungicide Use on Corn and Soybeans Fungicide applications are under way in many areas. Cornfields infested with diseases including Anthracnose, Gray leaf spot, Northern corn leaf blight, Northern Corn leaf spot, Rust and other maladies may benefit from a timely fungicide application. In soybeans, fungicides offer control of diseases including Anthracnose, Cercospora leaf blight, Frogeye leaf spot, Pod and Stem blight and Rhizoctonia areal blight. Several products available offer broad-spectrum control of a variety of diseases. In addition to disease control, fungicides may help mitigate plant stress. Several manufacturers note that infected fields treated with fungicides may show improved plant health, standability and dry-down which contribute to harvest efficiency. Finally, many products are also readily tank mixed, allowing growers additional options for treating insect infestations at the same time. Always read and follow label directions. Talk with your AgVenture Yield Specialist if you have questions about fungicide options.

Identify, Diagnose, Record Details If you're watching the yield monitor and see a big dip in the yield, it's often too late to effectively diagnose what caused the yield decline. Now is an important time to note any suspect fields and to correctly identify the cause of the anomaly. Good field notes combined with proper diagnosis will go a long way to making the best choices for 2014 hybrids and varieties.

McKillip Seeds has added additional offices and personnel to accommodate their continued growth. McKillip Seed's President, Mike McKillip said, "We are pleased with this expansion. We have made significant additions to our office space which allows us to more efficiently house our staff members who work so hard serving our customers."

The office additions were made to the existing office facilities located just northwest of Wabash. Three additional offices and a storage area were added. McKillip said, "The new office facilities will greatly support our staff. As our sales and our company have grown, so have the responsibilities of our Sales Manager, Mitch Snyder. Mitch will occupy one of the new offices, which will allow him greater accessibility, interaction and convenience as opposed to his former location."

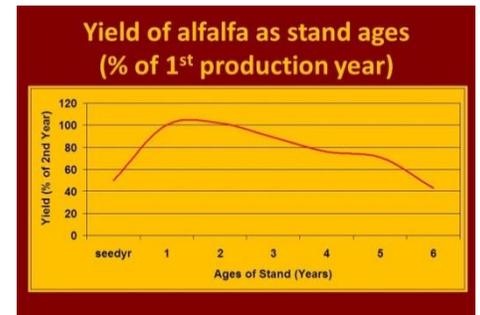
Soybean Aphids Flare Soybean aphids are flourishing in many fields where mild weather patterns persist. Populations build rapidly, doubling every 2 to 3 days, and may reach several thousand aphids per plant at their peak in early August. With populations reaching several thousand per plant, yield reductions may exceed 50%. The graph illustrates the average impact on yield and yield components in a University of Minnesota study (K.Ostlie). The primary effect of soybean aphids was on pod set, with lesser effects on number of nodes and seeds per pod. This study showed yield benefits in insecticide-treated fields averaged over 8 bu/acre. Recommended treatment level is 250 aphids per plant.



Infest, Feed on Pollen, Damage Crop, Move to Next Field Both Northern and Western corn rootworm infestations can develop rapidly. Rootworm beetles move readily between fields. Once you've noted them in one area, monitor nearby locations for damage. Beetles prefer to feed on pollen. As corn ceases tasseling in one field, a nearby, later planted field can quickly become heavily infested. Soybean fields can also fall victim to heavy infestations with heavy feeding on pollen, flowers and leaves, or pollen-producing weeds. Northern corn rootworm may have an extended diapause, a condition where eggs may remain dormant through two winters and one growing season before hatching in the second season. Fields across the upper Midwest have been damaged by rootworms with the extended diapause trait. Talk with your AgVenture Yield Specialist about the latest in corn rootworm management tips.

Consider Late Summer Alfalfa Seeding There are many benefits to seeding alfalfa this time of year. As alfalfa stands age, yield potential declines. As you evaluate your options, take into account that shorter rotation alfalfa crops provide numerous advantages in your whole farm cropping plan. University of Wisconsin notes the following:

- ✓ Younger alfalfa stands typically provide greater yields
- ✓ Increased corn silage yield following alfalfa
- ✓ 10-15% higher corn yields following alfalfa
- ✓ Additional legume credits
- ✓ Less rootworm insecticide needed after alfalfa



Talk with you AgVenture Yield Specialist to learn about our alfalfa product lineup today.

www.agventure.com