



WALKING FIELDS

SPRING 2020 UPDATE

The planting window for Spring 2020 has been very accommodating especially compared to the last couple planting seasons. In many areas late April through May precipitation was below average making for some dusty planting conditions. Some timely rains helped to get corn and soybeans started in the germination process. Soil temperatures took some time to stabilize in early May because of colder temperatures and widespread overnight temperatures in the 20's from May 8th through the 10th. This and some dry soil conditions led to some uneven emergence of early planted corn. However, temperatures the last couple weeks of May have been nearly ideal to get crops off to a healthy start. High temperatures in the upper 70's and 80's along with overnight lows in the upper 40's and 50's has grain crops and forages growing at an outstanding rate. In areas established stands of alfalfa were said to be growing at a rate of an inch per day.

Though the sticky humidity and high temperatures over Memorial Day Weekend said otherwise, in Central Wisconsin we are behind on accumulated GDU's by about 60 units. This gap was about 90 GDU's behind around the 15th of May. Recent storm systems have provided moisture for growing crops. We have received about the 30-year average of moisture through the end of May.

STAYING WEED FREE

SOYBEAN HERBICIDE PROGRAM

Gone are the days of effective and acceptable weed control in soybeans with one herbicide application. Utilizing multiple, properly timed applications of the correct herbicides is the only way to win the fight against resistant weeds. Historically the second herbicide application was delayed as long as possible to ensure no new "flushes" of weeds would emerge. Now with resistant weeds, growers need to adapt the mindset of applying the second herbicide application based on the time from the first application of residual herbicides. The timing cannot be too late because as the first residual application is being degraded by moisture and the sun it may not provide effective control against emerging weeds. If the second residual herbicide application is made too close to the first application, a third herbicide application may be needed to control late emerging weeds. Ideally, growers should target the second application of residual herbicides to be applied 21-28 days after planting while the pre-emergence application is still actively controlling

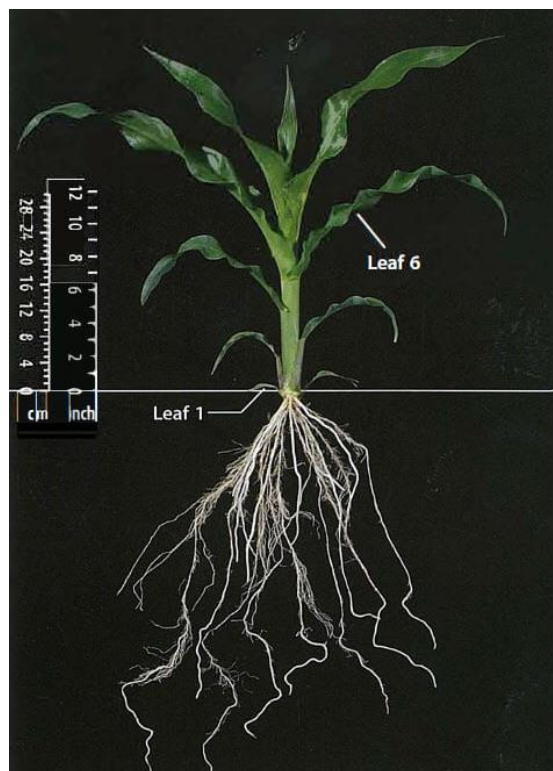
weeds. This is very important because some of the most effective and economical herbicides that can be utilized in the second application of residual herbicides do not have any foliar burndown activity and glyphosate will likely not be effective against resistant weeds. Other herbicides can be used for foliar burndown activity if needed such as; Liberty, approved dicamba and 2,4-D with their associated trait packages, or some PPO Inhibitors like fomesafen (Flexstar) or lactofen (Cobra). Some of these options will cause a crop response and potential yield loss. Challenges that often come with this second application of residual herbicides are spray coverage for contact herbicides, timing to crop stage and rotation intervals to other crops. Herbicides that are applied in the second residual application will need to provide weed control until full crop canopy and/or for the remainder of the season. Many popular options include herbicides from Group 15, Group 10, Group 14, Group 4 and others that may be used in combination.



N TIMING ON CORN

SPLIT APPLICATION TIMING OF N

Corn is adding an additional growth stage or collar about every 100 GDU's. Most plants are at or close to the V3 stage where the plant will stop growing from the resources in the actual seed. It will not be long before the corn is at the V5-V6 stage with the growing point above the soil level and initiating the primary ear shoot. Shortly after this stage is when the Nitrogen use in the plant is at its peak. It is critical to make sure the needed nutrients is available when the plant needs it. Over 80% of the Nitrogen a corn plant will accumulate is taken up after the V6 growth stage. Fast growing crops and uncertain early summer weather can make it difficult to make split applications of Nitrogen. At this V6 stage the nodal root system is large and taking up nutrients very efficiently so an early application will still be effectively used by the plant. It is better to make the second nitrogen application earlier than later to preserve the most yield potential. Utilizing Nitrogen stabilizers, even at lower rates, can make application windows wider. Be sure to know exactly what the stabilizer product is doing. In hot and humid summer conditions a Ureas inhibitor like Agrotain will stop volatilization but will not stabilize Nitrogen in the soil profile. A nitrification inhibitor like Instinct or N-Serve will help Nitrogen remain in a more stabile Ammonium form in the soil.



POTATO LEAFHOPPERS

PLH MANAGEMENT IN ALFALFA

Potato Leafhoppers are a significant pest in alfalfa production. They overwinter in the south and migrate north on southern winds and storm systems. Infestation of PLH's can explode because of the rapid growth of the juveniles and the female's ability to lay 2-3 eggs per day for multiple days. Leafhoppers cause damage to the plant by piercing the leaf surface and sucking sap from the plant. This causes « hopper burn » or yellowing at the leaf tips. Because these pests feed on the vascular system of the plant, the damage is worse in droughty and hot conditions. Using a sweep net to scout is the most effective way to determine if management actions should be taken. Changing the cutting schedule can help remove feeding juveniles and adults from the field but reinfestation can occur in as little as 7-10 days. Insecticides are another effective way to control damage to the current forage and the follow crop of alfalfa. Products like Baythroid (cyfluthrin), Lorsban (Chlorpyrifos) and Mustang Maxx (zeta-cypermethrin) offer very good control of Potato Leafhoppers and can easily be tank mixed with other applications. When using an insecticide be aware of any pre-harvest intervals that may affect cutting schedules.



WHEAT SEASON UPDATE

LATE SPRING WHEAT MANAGEMENT

Warm weather has accelerated wheat growth. With flag leaves ready to emerge, protecting against leaf disease is critical. Now is also the time to prepare to manage Fusarium head blight. Do you spray for leaf diseases now and come back for a second pass targeting Fusarium ? Spray once at flowering for the head scab ? The goal is flag leaf protection, but diseases now in the canopy can lead to an increase in diseases on upper leaves. If there is disease pressure now, two passes of fungicide will be needed to protect the flag leaf and the head. If at heading time some disease pressure is present a product like ProSaro or Caramba for head scab will also give great control of flag leaf diseases. Product selection is very important. Strobilurins (Quadris, Headline and others) at flowering time can lead to an increase in mycotoxin production but offer control of other stem and foliar diseases earlier in the growing season.

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