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February 2011
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LOGAN AG NEWS

Winter Planning Breeds Success

The countdown to planting season has begun and excitement builds. Much fall tillage and fertilizer application is complete, and current grain prices promise excellent profit potential. Taking time now to address several aspects of crop production may help you achieve maximum yield potential.

Soil Fertility: If fertilizer has not been applied, schedule preplant soil tests to develop a fertility plan addressing a crop's needs. With soybeans entering the rotation in increasing numbers in 2011, don't forget the nutrient requirements of this crop.

Equipment Maintenance and Calibration: A well-maintained and calibrated planter provides uniform seed placement within the row, consistent planting depth, and good seed-to-soil contact for germination. Make certain that planters are level, and check discs and seed firmers for alignment. Call Troy Kennedy at Griggsville to schedule seed meter calibration by Ag Alliance.

Weed/Insect Control: Many chemical products control troublesome, yield-robbing weeds and insects. Discuss your 2011 crop protection program soon to develop a cost-effective program for traired and non-GMO or refuge acres.

Logan Ag recommends a foundation herbicide for early season weed control in all crops.

Seed Selection: To make the best seed selection for 2011, ask yourself a few questions. *How did my seed perform in 2010? What soil type, fertility level and tillage practice will I plant into? Are there continuous corn acres?* Logan Ag offers seed solutions with our top-yielding **Lewis** and **Mycogen** lineup of corn and soybeans.

February is an ideal time to meet with your Logan Ag crop specialist to finalize plans for 2011. Call or stop in today!

Chemical Comments

Refer to the last pages of this issue for product information and recommendations from local crop protection chemical representatives. Thanks to **Rex Rysdam/AMVAC**, **Keith Miller/MANA**, and **Martin Case/Agrotain** for their participation and support.

Test Your Glyphosate IQ

Glyphosate is easily the most widely used herbicide in corn and soybean production. Nearly everyone is familiar with the product, but questions remain regarding rates, time of application, additives, etc. Test your glyphosate IQ by completing the quiz. Answers appear at the end of the column.

1. **What is considered to be the "normal" glyphosate application rate?** A)22 oz Roundup PowerMax; B)1 quart generic 41% glyphosate; C)24 oz Durango DMA; D)32 oz Abundit Extra; E)All of the above
2. **Early morning and late evening are the ideal times to apply glyphosate.** A)True; B)False
3. **If waterhemp height is 12", what is the correct rate of Roundup PowerMax to apply?** A)22 oz; B)32 oz; C)44 oz
4. **Application of glyphosate in dry, dusty field conditions is optimal for killing larger weeds.** A)True; B)False
5. **Which of the following improves the performance of glyphosate? Check all that apply.** A)Drift reduction products; B)Nitrogen containing products; C)High water pH; D)Wet leaf surface

6. What is the maximum labeled corn height to which Roundup PowerMax may be applied? A)24"; B)48"; C)64"; D)36"

7. Which of the following products may be combined with glyphosate for improved post-emergence weed control in soybeans? Check all that apply. A)Cadet; B)Resource; C)Status; D)Synchrony XP; E)FirstRate

ANSWERS:

1. E – all of the above. All rates correlate to 1 LB glyphosate per acre.
2. B – False. Weeds such as velvetleaf begin to “tip” leaves at these times, making application less effective. Increase rates if application must be made during these times.
3. B – 32 oz Roundup PowerMax, or 3 pints generic 41% glyphosate/Abundit Extra, or 36 oz Durango DMA. If Water-hemp height > 18”, increase PowerMax rate to 44 oz, or 2 qt. generic 41% glyphosate/Abundit, or 3 pt. Durango.
4. B – False. Glyphosate is rendered ineffective when tied up on soil particles.
5. A and B. Drift reduction products help diminish very fine water droplets that evaporate in the air before reaching the target weed. Performance is improved due to additional glyphosate reaching the target. Nitrogen products aid performance in hard water (high pH) and on larger weeds in tough conditions.
6. B – 48”. Glyphosate application above 48” may interfere with kernel development and lead to “bubble ear” syndrome.
7. A, B, D, E. Status is labeled only for corn. Companion herbicides provide additional control of troublesome weeds and offer an additional mode of action to fight herbicide resistance.

Roundup PowerMax is a trademark of Monsanto Company. Durango DMA and FirstRate are trademarks of Dow Agro-Sciences, LLC. Abundit Extra and Synchrony XP are trademarks of DuPont. Cadet is a trademark of FMC Corporation. Resource is a trademark of Valent U.S.A. Corporation. Status is a trademark of BASF.

Early Corn Growth Critical

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. This quote from Proverbs 22:16 is

appropriate not only for child rearing, but also for raising corn. With 2011 corn prices exceeding \$5 per bushel, taking care of early season corn growth will increase yields, and may reward producers with record profits.

When corn seed sprouts, the root (radical) stretches out and downward from the seed at a 45° angle. Next, the coleoptile begins its upward growth to the soil surface. Three to four lateral roots begin development outward from the seed, and these early roots (seminal roots) begin uptake of small quantities of nutrients from the soil surrounding the seed before the plant has emerged.



Corn at 0, 2, 4, 5, 6 days after planting. Radical emerges Day 4. Coleoptile emerges/radical lengthens Day 5. Day 6 shows initial lateral root.

By the V3 growth stage, every leaf and ear shoot that will be developed as the plant matures is in the formation process. A tassel is initiated by V5 at the growing point which is still below the soil surface.



V3 growth stage. All potential leaves and ear shoots in formative stages.

Small amounts of nutrients, primarily phosphorus, are needed during these early growth stages. However, the root system is extremely small

and does not contact much soil or nutrient. Cool soil conditions found during April planting inhibit root development and nutrient access. **How do we provide nutrients to the plant at this critical period of growth when all plant parts are under development?**

Row-placed starter fertilizer provides a concentrated band of nutrients at the exact point where the seminal roots (laterals and radical) can intercept. Root growth proliferates in and near the nutrient band after contact. With early season access to essential nutrients, as well as other aspects of a balanced fertility program, the corn plant has the capability to develop maximum stalk, leaf and ear size. Moreover, increased early nutrient availability and subsequent **expanded root growth enables the plant to access more available nutrients and water** throughout the growing season.

Research confirms that use of starter fertilizer speeds maturity, increases stalk diameter, decreases grain moisture content, and increases yield.

The product of choice for starter fertilizer is **6-24-6-.25Zn** from Logan Ag. This quality fertilizer has the ideal characteristics to match nutrient requirements during corn’s early season growth stages *plus* a low salt index for increased seed safety and reduction of corrosion on expensive planter parts.

Contact your Logan Ag crop specialist right now for additional information on our starter fertilizer program. With our access to tanks, pumps and related equipment for your planter, we can help make your transition to starter fertilizer a reality this year. **Make certain your child (2011 corn) is ready for a productive life ahead.**