

Logan Agri-Service, Inc

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Logan Ag offers custom post-emerge application of nitrogen solutions in western Illinois. Call Troy, Wayne or Jerry at 1-800-LOGAN AG for scheduling!

LOGAN AG NEWS

Lower Seed Prices In 2011

The world's largest seed company, Monsanto, plans to reduce prices on Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans and SmartStax corn for the 2011 planting season. Sales of these genetically modified crops have not met Monsanto's expectations for the 2010 planting season, falling some 25% below company forecasts. Monsanto officials hope to boost sales of Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans from 6 million acres in 2010 to 16 million acres in 2011 with the price reduction.

Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans are presently 42% higher than Roundup Ready soybean varieties. SmartStax corn hybrids are priced 17% above other premium corn hybrids.

Monsanto seed retailers have not been notified of the amount of the price reduction as of mid-April.

Early Season Corn Pests

Several insects cause varying degrees of damage in corn. Be on the lookout for these pests.



Black cutworm

Black cutworms may be in any field, but are most likely to be found in poorly drained soils, low spots, weedy areas, or fields where weeds germinated before tillage. No-till or reduced tillage corn following soybeans, hay, or pasture favors cutworm outbreaks. Cutworm larvae begin cutting plants when they are about 1/2 inch in length.



Wireworm

Wireworms eat the germ out of the kernel, as well as attack seedling corn. Wireworm larvae grow to about 1-1/2 inches in length, 1/8 inch in diameter, are yellowish- or reddish-brown in color, and have an extremely hard outer surface.



White grub

White grubs attack seed, germinating seedlings, and feed on young, tender corn roots. Scout for wilting plants. Grubs have thick, soft bodies and have 3 pairs of legs just behind the head. Length of grubs ranges from 1/2 inch to 1-1/2 inches, and they curl into a C-shape when disturbed.

Rescue treatments are available for cutworms. Scouting is advised during the early season to assess stand and potential damage from these pests. If wireworms and/or grubs are located, plan to utilize a soil insecticide when corn is planted into the field again. Both pests have extended life cycles. Wireworms survive up to 7 years in the soil; white grubs have a 3-year life cycle. Early season damage is likely to occur again in these same fields.

Good Fertility Program Key To Quality Alfalfa

Production of quality alfalfa requires an adequate supply of nutrients. Benefits of a balanced fertility program include **increased yield, improved quality, additional resistance**

to pests, better winter-hardiness and greater profits.

A balanced fertility program includes, at minimum, 35 LB DAP plus 100 LB potash plus 5 LB sulfur per ton of production. Thus, 5 tons of production requires an application of 175 LB DAP, 500 LB potash and 25 LB sulfur. Logan Ag has found that approximately 2 LB boron (roughly 15 LB of fertilizer grade granules) greatly improves hay quality and winterhardiness. Phosphorus (DAP) is essential to aid crop recovery after cutting, speed crop maturity and improve nitrogen fixation by increasing the number of nodules formed on the roots. Potassium (potash) improves stand persistence and winter survival, and plays an essential role in the transport of water and nutrients throughout the plant.

Your Logan Ag crop specialist can assist you in planning a well-balance fertility program for quality alfalfa production.

Logan Ag Cash Discounts Offer Savings

\$ave money on 2010 crop input purchases by utilizing Logan Ag's discount for cash. Each agronomy product invoice is marked with discount options for various dates of payment. Payments received by May 10 qualify for a whopping 10% discount. Review your invoices and take advantage of these cash discounts.

Control Weeds Early For Top Yields

Uncontrolled weeds in corn greatly impact yield. In fact, research at the University of Minnesota indicates the longer

growers wait to control weeds, the greater the impact on yield and profit potential. At Minnesota, controlling weeds at the 3-4 inch stage reduced yield by 5 bushels per acre. Waiting until weeds attained 5-6 inches in height decreased corn yield by 9 bushels per acre. Weeds controlled at 7-8 inches cost producers 14 bushels per acre. That's nearly \$50 per acre at \$3.50 corn!

Agronomists agree weeds in corn cause economic loss after reaching 2 inches in height. Even in today's GMO crops, early season weed control is imperative for top yields.

Logan Ag crop specialists recommend making an application of a foundation herbicide to control early-season weeds and grass. If corn is already planted and no herbicide has been applied, many of the foundation herbicides containing atrazine can be applied through 11-inch tall corn. Combining a foundation herbicide to provide extended residual control with glyphosate or other non-selective herbicide in GMO corn wipes out existing weeds in the field and maintains control throughout the growing season. For non-GMO fields, there are many products that may be utilized for effective weed control. Contact your Logan Ag crop specialist for information or visit www.loganag.com and click on the CROP PROTECTION section of the web site where you will find links to all major herbicide manufacturers including AMVAC, BASF, Bayer, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, FMC, Monsanto, Syngenta and Valent.

Narrow Row Corn Gains Popularity

Corn planted in traditional 30"

rows is still king, but narrow row corn is gaining popularity in certain areas. What is driving this potentially conceptual change in corn planting?

Seed companies advocate higher plant populations with new hybrids. Many agronomists recommend planting populations as high as 38,000 seeds per acre. In standard 30" rows, plant spacing at this high population is a meager 5.5 inches. If plant spacing varies, some seeds could conceivably be as close as 2 to 3 inches apart – essentially a "double". With a 20" row planter, the same 38,000 population places seeds 8.25 inches apart. By comparison, plant population in 30" rows would be reduced to only 25,400 seeds per acre to achieve 8.25 inches between plants. Thus, the adopters of narrow rows are able to push plant populations to 38,000 and higher without the fear of crowding plants within the row. Higher populations with proper plant spacing and fertility levels typically boost yields. It is a foregone conclusion that improved genetics in today's hybrids can withstand higher plant populations.

Narrow row corn (22" or less) improves sunlight interception by the corn crop. More sunlight interception by the crop enables canopy cover earlier in the season. Achieving canopy cover earlier improves weed control and potentially yield. As a rule of thumb, canopy cover 1 day earlier in the season improves yield by as much as 2 bushels/acre. Most growers utilizing narrow rows report yield increases from the combination of higher planting populations and earlier canopy.

Conversion to narrow rows requires thoughtful consideration of yield and weed control benefits vs. the cost of planting and harvesting equipment. Perhaps it is in your future.