

Crops Bulletin

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White whorls in corn. What causes the scattered white whorls in some corn fields this year? Those whorls were wrapped up tight and then have recently unfurled. Since they were wrapped up tight, they were not exposed to sunlight. When they unfurl, they appear white. Tightly wrapped whorls can be a delayed symptom of wind injury, dirt in the whorl, or rapid growth.

Fungicide for soybean. A summary of 25 different fungicide trials in northwest Iowa conducted by ISU Extension personnel from 2005 to 2008 showed that:

- The overall yield increase from fungicide was 1.8 bu/a.
- 20% of the treatments had a yield increase of over 3.8 bu/a.
- Some varieties responded more than others. High yield potential was a factor sometimes.

Fungicides on corn. Fungicides can be applied to corn after pollination is complete. Yield benefits from fungicide application occur as a result of disease control and/or yield enhancement. Corn leaf diseases have been at a low level this year. Leaf disease of corn will cause the most damage when they are present at the ear leaf and above during the grain fill period.

Local research by ISU in 2008 produced variable results. However, some research results showed a 20.0 bu/a increase with low levels of leaf disease. There are no clear guidelines to help make this decision. Consider fungicide application to corn fields with high yield potential. Leave a check strip for comparison.

Bee Rule. [The Iowa Bee Rule](#) was recently changed. The New Bee Rule prohibits the application of insecticides that are labeled as toxic to bees to blooming crops between 8 AM and 6 PM – if the registered hives are located within one mile of a registered apiary. Nearly all soybean aphid insecticides are highly toxic to bees.

Manure applicator demonstration. [The Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo](#) is scheduled for July 22 at the Central Iowa Expo site between Ames and Boone. A complete list of expo activities and maps is available on the website.