

For What It's Worth...

The last two weeks were good weeks. Temperature geared up and a few non-severe rain showers rolled through the area. The corn is in rapid growth development as if trying to make up for slow development this spring. That rapid development has led to some twisted whorls (aka buggy whipping). The twisted whorls have turned into the extremely noticeable white and yellow leaves. The good news is this will diminish as chlorophyll and photosynthesis returns to those leaves. A good article on this phenomenon can be found in the ICM News. There has been little to no foliar diseases on the corn to date. Soybean are blooming and unusually short for this time of year. Foliar diseases are present on the soybean leaves.

Fungicides on Corn, Soybeans and Hail Damaged Crops

Fungicides are one tool we can consider when trying to maximize crop yields. This tool is not a cure all, does not guarantee a yield response and definitely should be considered on a field-by-field basis. There are several factors that need to be considered before pulling the trigger on spraying fungicides. These factors are hybrid/variety disease resistance, field disease history, current and predicted environmental conditions, cropping history as well as other considerations. Hail damaged crops are not necessarily leading candidates for fungicide applications. The truth is there is very little data available to support or dispute the use of fungicides for hail damaged crop health. What we do know is that fungicides work well on foliar fungi. They do not work to control stalk rots because the fungicide cannot penetrate the stalk to affect those pathogens. This would presumably be the same for soybean stems. However, on corn stalks we do have some data showing foliar fungicides have lead to improved plant health and also show less stalk rot. What it all boils down to is if you have foliar diseases present or have a strong potential for foliar diseases a fungicide should provide yield protection.

Check out these resources for more detailed information:

[Fungicide Decisions Nearing for Corn and Soybean](#)

[Will Foliar Diseases be a Problem on Corn This Year?](#)

[Yield Responsiveness of Corn to Foliar Fungicide Application in Iowa](#)

[Questions and Answers on Soybean Fungicide Applications](#)

Soybean Aphid and Bean Leaf Beetle Thresholds

The soybean aphid treatment threshold will remain at 250 aphids per plant with an increasing population regardless of the soybean commodity price. This threshold is a conservative threshold and provides for application decisions to be made before reaching economic injury levels (yield loss from aphid damage). Also, note that research data has shown that insecticide use below 250 aphids per plant has shown no response. More soybean aphid information can be found at www.soybeanaphid.info.

Bean leaf beetles do have a treatment threshold that is affected by commodity price. These beetle thresholds and scouting techniques can be found in [Bean Leaf Beetle: Predicted Peak First-Generation Dates](#). Please keep in mind that these predicted dates are for 2007 and not for 2008.

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Serving; Calhoun,
Carroll, Crawford,
Greene, Ida,
Monona and
Sac counties.

Web pages to View:

- [Field Extension Education Laboratory](#)
- [ICM News](#)
- [Sensitive Crops Directory](#)
- [Soybean Disease & Pest Management Field Guide](#)

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