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Channel Spotlight

Channel Team

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Highlights from your fields:

-Corn planted May 10 in Ansley, has accumulated 641 GDUs. Believe it or not this is only 4 days behind the 30 year average.

-Shortened internodes are obvious. Corn plants will likely be shorter statured than normal this year. Soybeans may have trouble reaching canopy especially in 30"+ rows.

Herbicide-Ideally herbicide applications are wrapping up for both Corn and Soybeans. Pre-Emerge programs are showing their value. If additional Post Emerge applications need to be made, consider the following:

-Growth Regulators can make corn brittle. Most corn fields are in the "Rapid Growth" stage which you can see with the daily jump in height. Corn can be brittle in this stage anyway, couple with 90 degree weather the addition of Growth Regulators (Dicamba) should be used with cation. These products are often still the best choice, but rate and timing should be considered.

-Soybeans are now entering into reproductive stages following the Solstice last week. They will begin to bloom on the lower nodes. Labeled herbicide applications form this point forward are limited and can have a negative impact on yield.

Fungicide- This year seems to be a year where fungicide applications could be a significant factor in our final success. Applications now can be tanked mixed with many post herbicides, are less expensive and may make a big difference on Anthracnose's ability to impact corn plants. Post tassel applications should be considered if disease conditions continue to be prevalent.

Fertility- Yellowing corn is not ideal in any situation. Areas of fields are showing the lack of Nitrogen. In some cases, the entire crop need was applied but roots have not developed to reach it yet. Dry Urea applications are a good way to charge the root area with Nitrogen. This application can be feasible whether a small boost is needed or a large % of the crops needs.

Irrigations- Corn is currently using 0.13"-0.19" of water per day. There is definitely no shortage of moisture in any field I have been in. I have found some later planted fields where sidewall compaction is beginning to impact root development. If heat continues without rainfall, an irrigation may be worth considering to soften up the topsoil.

Questions? Pete or Trey would be happy to help.

Motivational Quotes of the Week

"Things work out best for those that make the best of how things work out."

-John Wooden

"Do what you can with all you have; wherever you are."

-Theodore Roosevelt

In These Boots…..

Channel TA, Tammy Ott

Leaf Disease in Corn

With the weather we have been experiencing, it is shaping up to be a crop season with a higher incidence of disease. With the warm-up expected this week, along with the wet weather conditions, leaf diseases will begin to present themselves. Rain and high humidity are two risk factors for leaf disease in corn, but planting susceptible hybrids, corn on corn systems, field history of disease, no-till or minimum till are all factors that determine incidence and severity of disease. Therefore, it becomes important to be able to differentiate leaf diseases since early symptoms can often look similar. Over the next few weeks, I will focus on common corn diseases in Nebraska.

Bacterial leaf streak can be found now in central Nebraska. BLS pathogen survives in previously infected debris and enters the plant through natural openings into the plant (stomata). Lesions typically begin on lower leaves of the plant and are yellow or tan. They form between the veins and give off a yellow hue when held up to the light. BLS is often confused with gray leaf spot. Gray leaf spot lesions are typically smooth and straight while bacterial leaf streak lesions are wavy and irregular. As with other bacterial diseases in corn, fungicides are not effective, so proper identification is important to avoid application costs.

Gray leaf spot is a fungal pathogen that overwinters in corn residue left on the soil surface. Moisture, warm temperatures (70-90°F) and humidity (90% or above) favor the spread of GLS and symptoms can often be found on lower leaves first. Mature lesions produce a secondary inoculum and continue the infection cycle over a period of 14-28 days depending on the susceptibility of the corn hybrid and environmental conditions. Lesions are found between leaf veins and are brown or gray in color. The distinct rectangular shape of the lesions, along with smooth margins, distinguish GLS from other diseases. Selecting tolerant corn hybrids and crop rotation are the best management strategies for GLS. Unlike bacterial leaf streak, timely fungicide applications are effective at minimizing yield loss from gray leaf spot once symptoms are present. If left untreated, yield can be greatly impacted due to loss of photosynthetic leaf area, especially when the infection is present above the ear before or during silking.