



**HAMILTON
HFB AGRONOMY**

One of the most important things we help grow is trust.

Words to grow by...

In This Issue:

- Soybean Aphid Populations on the Rise
- Corn Tissue Sampling Pinpoints Source of Trouble
- Pre-Payment Options on 2012 Fertilizer Inputs
- Corn Fungicide Treatment Options
- Scout Now for Corn Rootworm
- Late Emerging Weeds Challenge Late Corn

Summer 2011

Contact Us!

**Hamilton Agronomy
South:
877.969.1122**

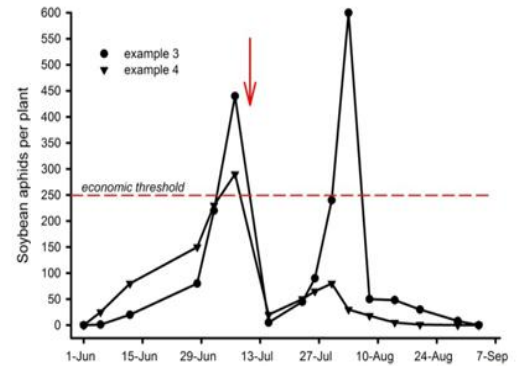
**Hamilton Agronomy
Traverse City:
800.435.5143**



www.hfb.com

Soybean Aphid Populations on the Rise

Exponential growth of soybean aphid populations have occurred the past couple of years around the region. Doubling of populations is possible every week. Moderate daily temperatures and humidity are most favorable for optimal reproduction. If populations spike, economic threshold levels of 250 aphids per plant could easily be reached.



Soybean aphid populations can rapidly develop on young soybeans and surpass economic threshold levels – sometimes twice in a season. Red arrow indicates optimal insecticide application timing.
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/0624hodgson.htm>

Sampling is recommended every 7-10 days to estimate aphid densities and to note if populations are increasing, decreasing or holding steady. First and second instars and winged adult aphids can often be found under leaves. Examine 20-50 plants in several locations within a field. Fields sprayed before bloom may require a second insecticide application if aphids rebound or if the field is reinfested.

Corn: Tissue Sampling Pinpoints Source of Trouble

With corn under stress from multiple environmental factors, pinpointing the cause behind symptoms can be tough. But, Hamilton Agronomist Patrick Lusk said, “With the crops’ value holding strong, many farmers find it worth an investment to diagnose and treat the root cause. For many, tissue sampling provides important answers.”

“It’s been wet and cool, and then warm. Most of the growers are wondering why their corn is looking yellow,” said Lusk, who reports nutrient deficiencies may be to blame. Tissue sampling, a technique borrowed from vegetable crop management, analyzes mineral content in plant leaves. In recent sampling, Lusk has uncovered deficiencies in manganese and boron, mostly, but also some zinc, nitrogen and sulfur.



In high phosphate soil, zinc can be a “real limiting factor,” affecting dry-down and maturity, Lusk said. Low boron can lead to troubled pollination. That’s why supplementing, in cases of deficiency, can really pay off. For tissue testing services, and to learn if mineral supplements pencil out, contact your Hamilton Agronomist.

Pre-Payment Options on 2012 Fertilizer Inputs

Inquire now about opportunities for booking your 2012 fertilizer inputs. Contact Hamilton Farm Bureau today to learn about pre-payment options, pricing and availability.

Fungicide Treatments Advance Corn Yield

For the past two years Hamilton Agronomy has worked with area growers conducting trials testing fungicides' impact in corn. While fungal disease will vary from year to year, 2009 and 2010 saw considerable fungal disease pressure, from leaf rust and fusarium to anthracnose in stalks. According to Hamilton Agronomist Patrick Lusk, treatments tested fungicide applications at tasseling and yielded positive results.

"We saw some pretty substantial increases in yield and crop quality. Now those growers are interested in the early application," said Lusk. "Those who've seen the benefits are going more toward preventive treatment instead of rescue treatment."

Application rates in proactive situations vary from those needed when diseases are identified in-crop. Timing can be critical for maximum benefit. Contact your Hamilton Agronomist to learn about gaining yield through preventative treatment.

Scout Now for Corn Rootworm

Corn Rootworm (CRW) larvae hatch is well under way. Scouting is recommended in high-risk fields or where insecticides were challenged due to weather or standing water. CRW larvae will feed both inside and outside roots causing tunneling and pruning.

To sample, dig a root mass and place on a black garbage bag. Carefully break up the soil. CRW larvae are slender and creamy-white, ¼ to ½ inch long with brownish heads and tails. Look closely under leaf collars close to nodal roots. Repeat the process with several plants and in different areas of the field. Two or more larvae per plant represent a rootworm population and signal the need for a rescue cultivation application.

Insecticides should be directed toward the base of the plant. Throw soil up around plants to incorporate the insecticide and promote the establishment of brace roots. Contact your Hamilton Agronomist for support in diagnostics or application options. (Photo: University of Nebraska Lincoln)



Late-Emerging Weeds Challenge Late Corn

Late-emerging weeds are thriving with late corn crops. Many corn fields were planted later and canopies are not yet closed. Still, weeds are advancing and threaten to rob yields. Herbicide applications could be warranted. However, careful field evaluation is recommended. During the V6 to V10 growth stage, the corn ear is forming and the plant is determining the number of rows and kernels each ear will have. Spraying corn herbicides beyond the V8 stage can sometimes be harmful if herbicides get into the whorl of the plant, causing ear deformation as pictured to the right.

Applying herbicides using drop nozzles can help assure the weeds get adequate coverage while minimizing the amount of product that gets into the whorl of the plant. If nothing else, carefully document weed infestation levels in each field. Weed seed produced from late-emerging weeds can strongly influence next year's weed management decisions. (Photo: Purdue University.)



Your Hamilton Agronomy Team is Here to Help! Contact Us Today!



4670 East Washington
Hamilton, MI 49419

www.hfb.com