



**HAMILTON
AGRONOMY**

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

WORDS TO GROW BY...

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(Fire Blight on Blossoms
– story next page.)

Don't Let Weeds Use Your Nitrogen Inputs!

Results from two years of testing in Wisconsin prove that weeds are highly effective consumers of nitrogen. Scientists studied how delayed weed control affected optimum nitrogen rates in corn. Researchers applied increasing rates of nitrogen (N) over the range of 0-200 lb/a and weeds were controlled either pre-emerge, at the recommended 4-inch height, at 12 inches and in a weedy check.

When weeds were sprayed at 4 inches, they'd already accumulated an average of 12 lb/a of N. However, eight days later, they'd accumulated an average of 25 lb/a N at 12 inches tall. Nitrogen uptake by weeds reduced the nitrogen accumulated by the corn.

Economic Optimum Nitrogen Rates in Corn with Four Weed Management Treatments at 0.15 Nitrogen: Corn Price Ratio

Weed management treatment	Economic optimum nitrogen rate (lb N/a)	
	2006	2007
Weed-free (preemergence)	96	39
4-inch weed control timing	97	79
12-inch weed control timing	200	220
Weedy (nontreated)	200	193

Hamilton Agronomist Dr. Phil Boeve said, "This study emphasizes the importance of weed control in our current economic scenario. We strongly encourage growers to have a weed control plan in place. Know whether you plan

on spraying once or twice – and consider the value of all your inputs.

Remember, weeds 2-4" tall in corn or 6" tall in soybeans are all it takes to cause reduced production potential and economic losses." For more information, see: <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/WCMNews/tabid/53/EntryID/498/Default.aspx>

Stay on Top of Wheat Scouting

Wheat scouting has already begun for foliar diseases including rust, stripe rust and powdery mildew. Decision to treat should be based on:

- ✓ the level of the disease in the field
- ✓ the susceptibility of the variety of wheat infected
- ✓ weather conditions
- ✓ yield potential
- ✓ fungicide costs
- ✓ application costs
- ✓ market price of the crop

But with near record wheat prices, some area growers are considering not only treating for foliar diseases but for head scab as well – which would mean a second application. Fungicides for rust and powdery mildew are typically applied growth stage 8 or flag leaf emergence to growth stage 10 or boot. Head scab treatments would follow in a separate application and would usually follow a foliar fungicide application by a week to ten days.

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(Photo MSU)

The Replant Question

Frost, flood, hail and pests all can cause corn and soybean growers to have to face replant decisions. Hamilton Agronomists are your first resource for support in determining if, where and how much replanting may be necessary. And while some companies are in short supply of seed, Hamilton has both soybean and corn seed available.

Plan Now to Sample Fruitlets Soon

Hamilton Agronomists provide a valuable service to all HFB fruit growers – testing fruitlets for micronutrient levels. Contact your HFB Agronomist today to schedule an appointment or to learn more.

New Labels for Apple and Stone Fruit Fungicides

Michigan State University Plant Pathologist George Sundin reports there are two fungicides with new labels for apples and stone fruit this spring. Two formulations of Indar[®] from Dow AgroSciences (75WSP and 2F) are labeled for use against apple scab, powdery mildew, cedar apple rust, sooty blotch and flyspeck. Indar is a systemic, sterol-inhibitor (SI) fungicide. MSU reminds growers that resistance to SI fungicides in the apple scab pathogen is widespread in Michigan. Inspire Super MP[®] from Syngenta is also a systemic, SI fungicide. This fungicide will be packaged together with Vanguard, an anilinopyrimidine fungicide with a different mode of action. Indar[®] is a registered trademark of Dow Agrosciences Inspire Super MP[®] is a registered trademark of Syngenta

Cherry Growers Treat for European Brown Rot

European brown rot is caused by the pathogen *Monilinia laxa* and often shows up in low areas of the orchard, along hedgerows or in areas that do not dry off quickly. It infects and kills blossoms and spurs when damp, wet weather conditions last for a day or more. Varieties showing particular susceptibility include Balaton, Meteor and English Morello varieties. Hamilton Agronomists are talking with growers about spraying at the popcorn stage and again seven days later with Indar[®] at 2 oz/a. For specific recommendations for your orchard, call your Hamilton Agronomist today.

Watch for Fire Blight in Apple Blossoms

Hamilton Agronomist Matt Lyons says area apple growers are on the watch for fire blight, a serious disease caused by the bacterial pathogen *Erwinia amylovora*. Lyons said, "Warm weather can spike inoculum levels in a hurry." He added that growers can look for the collapse of young fruitlets after bloom. "It's hard to see unless you are carefully inspecting the bloom for symptoms. Tissue affected will have a water-soaked appearance, young fruitlets shrivel and stems will turn black. Also, certain varieties are more susceptible including Ida Reds and Jonathons."

Lyons said area growers have had success spraying with a couple of products. "Serenade Max[®], at 2 lbs/a has provided excellent results. Some growers still use the older product, Serenade[®] at a rate of 4 lbs/a. Streptomycin at a rate of 1.5 lbs/a is also used." We encourage growers to call your Hamilton Agronomist for additional information on scouting or treating for fire blight." Serenade[®] and Serenade Max[®] are registered trademarks of AgraQuest, Inc. Always read and follow label instructions when using any pesticide.



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