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Effingham AG News

The rains over the last several weeks have improved the 2012 commodity outlook and are definitely a change from this same time last year. The showers continue to be hit and miss, but overall the county crop looks good at the present time. Hopefully, these rains will continue to arrive on a timely basis and offer you a prosperous 2012 harvest.

The rains have been good, but they have also increased the weed and disease pressure in fields. We need to remain diligent on our weed and disease efforts to maximize the efficacy of the products being used. Timing is everything – and this has not changed over the years, but with this fight against PIGWEED – we need to prevent them from coming up with a PRE and make a timely POST application to target escapes.

Corn

Northern Corn Leaf Blight (NCLB) is obvious in many corn fields throughout the state. It is very clear that all corn hybrids are not created equal when it comes to NCLB. The detection of Southern Corn Rust has been identified in Seminole, Worth, Terrell, Ben Hill, Brooks, and Atkinson counties. The Effingham County corn rust plot is located on J & J Farms and is being monitored weekly for rust. NCLB has been identified in the plot, but no rust has yet been found. Results for all the areas being scouted for southern corn rust can be viewed at http://scr.ipmpipe.org

Here's some NCLB info from Dr. Bob Kemerait, UGA Extension Pathologist.
Northern Corn Leaf Blight: It CAN be a very damaging disease, especially when conditions are favorable- rainfall, short rotation, good corn growth, early infestation, susceptible variety. HOWEVER, to complicate things, just because NCLB occurs in a field does NOT mean it will be a problem- drier conditions will cause it to stall.

I believe that it is most important to protect the crop with fungicides if top-yields are expected, rainfall has been favorable, the disease appears early, and the grower UNDERSTANDS THAT FUNGICIDES ARE AN IMPORTANT TOOL, BUT NOT GURANTEED TO IMPROVE YIELD WITH NCLB EVERY TIME (early infestation with southern corn rust ALWAYS warrants a fungicide where yields are to be protected.

Cotton

Early Planted Cotton PGR Decisions (Collins &Whitaker)

Pre-bloom PGR applications are most often only necessary in irrigated situations with varieties proven to grow excessively. Many things should be considered when making any PGR decisions, and we recommend that growers make those calls on a case-by-case and field-by-field basis. With respect to variety influences on PGR requirements, our research has indicated that varieties do differ in their overall growth potential and requirements for PGRs. These differences may play a role in determining when to initiate PGR applications. Table 1 contains information on varieties based on their relative PGR requirement. Varieties are listed in one of four groups, from highest to lowest based on relative growth and PGR requirement (DP555 BR would be in a group by itself at the top). Varieties are grouped together because they demonstrate similar growth patterns and response to PGR applications. Beside each group of varieties are three comments on management schemes for those varieties: (1) the likely number of applications needed to properly manage growth (2) the timing in which PGR applications should likely be initiated and (3) thoughts on product selection and rates. Comments are intended to be somewhat vague because many things other than variety play a role in proper growth management.

With regards to pre-bloom applications on early planted cotton, varieties listed in the top two groups would more likely require that application (varieties in the top group would be better candidates than ones in the group below).

Table 1. Relative PGR Requirements of Cotton Varieties Grown in Georgia.

Varieties	UGA PGR Recommendations
DP 1050 B2RF DP 0949 B2RF DP 1048 B2RF PHY 499 WRF	# of applications – MULTIPLE Initiation – PRIOR TO BLOOM Product – MC (all applications, rates can vary)
PHY 565 WRF DP 1137 B2RF ST 4145 LLB2	# of applications – MULTIPLE, MOST CASES Initiation – Squaring to 1st Bloom Product - 1st Application – Stance or MC - Sequential applications – Stance or MC
ST 5458 B2RF DP 0912 B2RF FM 1773 LLB2 PHY 375 WRF DP 1133 B2RF	Applications – ONE to MULTIPLE Initiation – Bloom initiation likely sufficient Product - 1st application – Stance or MC (↓ rates) - Sequential applications – Stance or MC
FM 1740 B2RF ST 4288 B2RF FM 1845 LLB2	Application – NONE to ONE Initiation – Bloom initiation almost always Product – Stance or MC (↓ rates) at all applications

- This information was developed from UGA research which documented overall vegetative growth potential of varieties and their response to plant growth regulator (PGR) applications, with respect to growth reduction and effect on maturity and yield.
- Varieties are listed in 4 groups and PGR recommendations are listed for each group. Varieties within a group have demonstrated similar growth patterns and response to PGR applications.
- Recommendations are based total number of applications, initiation timing of PGR applications, and product selection and use rates.

- PGR requirements vary widely and depend upon many factors other than variety. These recommendations should be used only as a guide and were developed so that more informed PGR decisions can be made by producers with little or no previous experience with a particular variety.
(Collins & Whitaker, 2011)

Peanuts (Managing white mold and Rhizoctonia limb rot)

July marks the time of the peanut season when most growers need to include fungicides in their disease program to control not only leaf spot diseases, but soilborne diseases as well. Growers should begin their soilborne disease program approximately 60 days after planting; however, the exact start may be earlier or later than this depending on a number of risk factors or the early detection of disease in the field.

Soybeans

Asian soybean rust was detected on kudzu in Decatur and Miller counties last week. The 10-day forecast calls for only modest chances of rain, which could help to slow the spread of the rust; however, the highs are predicted be in the upper 80's to lower 90's which could keep foliage wet with dew later in the morning, thus increasing likelihood of infections to occur.

The Effingham County Soybean Sentinel Plot is located on Mount Pleasant Farms and is being monitored weekly for soybean rust. The good news is that no identification of rust has been reported thus far from the plot. I will be sure to keep you updated with alerts as the growing season continues. Results for all the areas being sampled for soybean rust can be viewed at www.sbrusa.net

A timely application of Dimilin and Boron can increase your soybean yield. The best time to apply Dimilin – Boron foliar spray is when the soybeans are in the full-bloom (R2) to early pod-fill (R3) stages. Pod elongation usually does not begin until 10-14 days after full bloom. An application of 2 oz. per acre Dimilin plus ¼ lb. per acre Boron should enable you to increase yield, control the velvetbean caterpillar, suppress the soybean looper, increase insecticide effectiveness if loopers develop, and increase potential profitability of your soybeans.

There is no need to apply more than ¼ lb. per acre of actual Boron. Rates above this amount can cause foliar burn.

Please do not hesitate to give me a call at the Extension Office (754-8040) or mobile (429-8004) if I can be of assistance to you.

Bill Tyson
Effingham County Agent