



WALKING FIELDS

2020 SEASON UPDATE

It looks like most crops have really hit their stride in June. A lot of herbicide applications were made on both corn and soybeans. In season fertilizer applications have likely been made or will be made in short order. Continual rain in many areas has activated herbicides and helped move mobile nutrients into the root zone and the crops have taken advantage of both.

To start the month of June the Legacy Research and Learning Center in Waupaca, WI was 77 GDD's behind the 30-year average. Warm, ideal growing weather has helped close that gap to being about 25 GDD's behind average in the last week of June. This gain is despite a stretch of days from June 10th to the 15th with significantly below average high and low temperatures. The last week of June has provided some overcast and wet weather throughout most of the upper Midwest with some areas getting upwards of 3 inches of rain in just a few days. With the recent wet and cloudy weather pattern in Central Wisconsin we are now about 2 inches of rain above the 30-year average for the end of June. This margin has widened from being only slightly above average at the end of May.

Ample moisture, nutrient rich and fertilized soils and well-managed weeds is the perfect situation as much of the grain yields are starting to be determined in the field.

NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES

GET YOUR CROPS TO THE BUFFET

At this point in the season, think of the crop at an all-you-can-eat buffet. As the corn is running back for the main course, soybeans are shoving their way up to the salad bar to kick off their feeding frenzy. Don't forget about alfalfa catching its second wind after stuffing her purse full of popcorn shrimp. Here we are; we paid the tab and the crops are stuffing themselves silly, the last thing we want is to run out of food. Now is when you have to be scouting for the nutrient deficiencies.

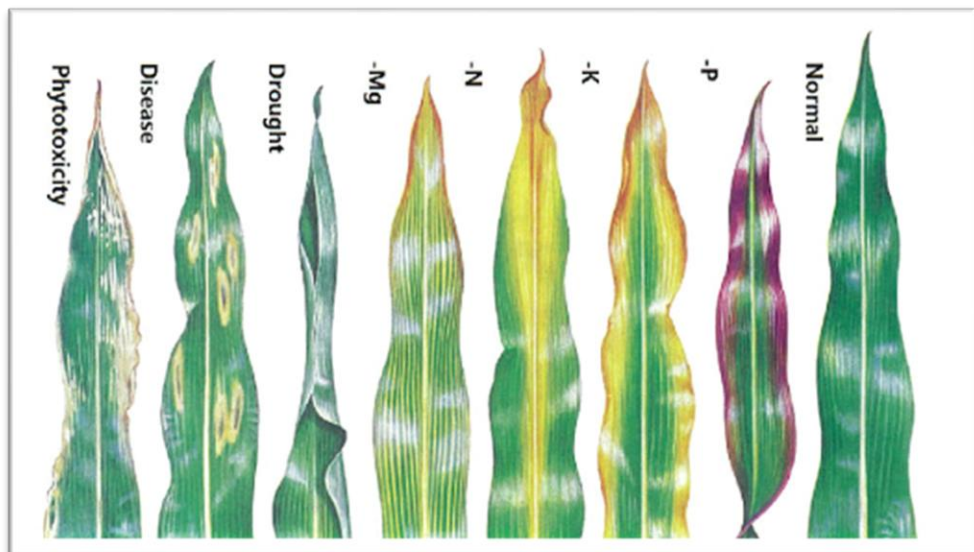
In corn, the vast majority of nutrient uptake and dry matter accumulation happens after V6. Nutrients mobile in the soil, like Nitrogen, Sulfur and Boron can be leached from heavy rains. Other nutrients that are stable in the soil, Potassium, Phosphorus and Zinc, can be difficult to correct for in-season unless foliar fertilizers are used. Scout for a V-shaped yellow pattern on the older/lower leaves for a Nitrogen deficiency. Sulfur stress will show on the newest growth first and look like thin yellow stripes that run the length of the leaf. Nutrients that are mobile in the soil can

be applied in-season and utilized by the growing crop rapidly. Other yield limiting nutrient stresses can be from Potassium. Potassium acts as a forklift within the plant helping to mobilize Nitrogen for more efficient use. Potassium will show up as yellowing along the leaf edges on the lower leaves. Another nutrient to be aware of is Zinc, interveinal striping and shortened internodes

Soybeans and alfalfa are bellying up to the buffet too. Potassium and Nitrogen are used in huge rates in rapidly growing soybeans. If healthy nodules are present the plant will fix the N it needs.

Potassium stresses will show up as yellowing at the leaf margins on older leaves. Potassium stress in alfalfa is similar with small dots sometimes appearing along leaf margins. Sulfur deficient alfalfa and soybeans will show yellowing of the new growth. Boron can play a big role in both crops. A plant lacking Boron will have shorter internodes and a reddish tint to new growth.

Make sure your buffet is full for your crops.



FLOWERING IN SB

THE MAGIC DATE HAS PAST

It has been entrenched in our minds that the longest day of the year (Summer Solstice) is a critical juncture for soybeans. When the length of darkness is longer than the length of daylight the plant will begin the transition from vegetative growth to reproductive growth. Leaf trifoliates will still be added as the plant begins to flower. Heat and growing conditions play more of a role in this process than originally thought. After flowering begins, temperature will drive growth through pod development-the warmer the temperatures from normal, the faster the plant will develop. Even though soybeans are photoperiod sensitive, flowering can be delayed long past the summer solstice when the crop is planted late. However, late planted soybeans are driven more by heat in both the vegetative and reproductive stages so can compensate for a late start. The goal of every soybean grower is to produce and fill as many pods as possible. Pods begin with flowers and flowers begin with nodes. Soybean plants have the capability to produce an immense number of nodes, flowers and pods throughout the season. What needs to be focused on is how many of those node and flowers result in yield contributing pods. One of the best ways to do this is by having as much vegetative growth before flowering which typically is a result of early and timely planting, emergence and early season growth.



NEW SEEDING MANAGEMENT

CUTTING SCHEDULE OF NEW SEEDING ALFALFA

Alfalfa in the seeding year will act differently than established stands and need to be managed differently. Most alfalfa in the seeding year will have thinner spindly stems and an under-developed root system because it grows at a slower rate. New seeding alfalfa can be harvested 40 days after emergence but it is recommended to wait until about 60 days after emergence when plants are in the late bud to early bloom stage. Yield will be higher and the plants will be better able to withstand the stress of harvest because of a more prominent root system. After this initial cutting the stand can be managed more like established stands. If weed pressure is heavy in new seeding alfalfa, the first cutting can be made at 40 days with additional considerations. Cutting height should be raised to leave at least one set of leaves on the remaining stems of alfalfa. This will aid in the regrowth of the plant since root and crown development has not begun. After an early first cutting of a new seeding stand of alfalfa expect a longer interval for the crop to regrow. In summer/fall new seedings, never take the first cutting during the four-week timeframe before a killing freeze this will result in severe winter injury.

DICAMBA BATTLE

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT'S DICAMBA DECISION

Approved dicamba products for the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybean trait platform have been in the news a lot recently. At the beginning of June, the Ninth Circuit Court vacated registration on BASF's Engenia, Bayer's Xtendimax and Corteva's FeXapan making it illegal to apply these products. A few days later the EPA issued an order canceling the registration of these products but allowing farmers and commercial applicators to use « existing stocks » of the herbicides in their possession as of June 3rd until July 31st. A number of states have special Section 24(C) instructions on the label that may include dicamba cutoff dates and other special application instructions that must still be followed. All of this action comes at a time in the season when growers are utilizing these herbicides. Both Bayer and BASF have filed opposing motions. Other products, such as Enlist One and glyphosate, have also been under additional scrutiny.

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