

Driving soybean yields to the next level is the goal of the entire industry the past few years. As corn



yield increases continue to outpace soybean yields, growers, and suppliers are searching for ways to boost the bean yields. One way that Ag Plus has had success in boosting yields is promoting fungicide use. In my years with BASF and Syngenta, I saw first hand the benefits of promoting fungicides on both soybeans and corn. BASF, Syngenta, Bayer and other manufacturers have raised the bar on their fungicide formulations to keep pace with resistance management and brand new active ingredients for the corn and soybean markets.

Fungicide products that Ag Plus utilize tend to bring 5-7 bu. increases in soybeans and 10-15 bushel increases in corn. Each individual year can vary, but all treatments have shown consistent results and overall positive return on investments. Soybean diseases that tend to show up every year include, sceptoria brown spot and many years we deal with downy mildew, phomopsis, and frog eye leaf spot. However, even though the specific diseases we see tend to vary, the overall yield increases are very consistent. The addition of an insecticide to the tank mix can often result in even greater increased yields. We want to be proactive and consistent with integrated pest management, however, we often find there are multiple insects feeding on soybeans at or slightly below threshold levels and the addition of an insecticide is very beneficial.

In corn, grey leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight have been very consistent pests the past several years. The weather patterns at, and right after pollination have been conducive for promoting spore development and the humidity and increased large rains have allowed the pathogens to prosper. Tassel applications or late V10 – V12 applications are best for a one shot fungicide program. In corn after corn, river bottoms or highly managed corn acres, a split shot application usually performs best. We would target V5-V7 corn, followed by a VT – R1 application. As with soybeans, an insecticide tank mix usually boosts yields even more.



Ag Plus also offers access to a unique program through the Winfield United R7 program to help you decide which acres are most likely to respond to fungicide applications more. The Response to Fungicide scores in the CHT system gives access to many years of data on Croplan, NK, Dekalb, Asgrow and Pioneer hybrids. Please utilize this information data base if you are new to fungicides and want to target specific hybrids or varieties that are most likely to respond with greater yield increases.

Your Ag Plus Agronomy staff is well educated on the recommendation and use of fungicide in corn and soybeans. Please consult your local sales team member for specific product recommendations and timing. Many manufacturers offer increased incentives for growers to match their herbicides with their fungicides. So make sure you talk to your sales person about taking advantage of those programs.

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