



Agricultural Products

HatchTrakSM

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In this Issue:

- Insect Pest Update
- Post Corn, Sorghum
Herbicide Notes
- Alfalfa - Insect Mngt after 1st
Cutting
- Corn Rootworm Hatch
- Quick Notes

Pest Update - Field Notes

We continue to receive reports of various insects attacking seedling corn across the region. In northeastern KS & southeastern NE, southern corn leaf beetle, green stink bugs, and flea beetles continue to damage. As the corn grows through the 4-5 leaf stage, problems from these insects should diminish. Continue to scout small, later planted fields for insect feeding. Capture, Mustang Max, and Furadan are all options to control foliar pests in corn.

Cutworm activity has been spotty and widespread across the region. In the eastern areas of NE, KS dingy and a few black cutworm have been thinning some corn stands. In central and western areas, dingy and pale western have been causing damage. More than a few fields thought to be protected with seed applied insecticides have been rescued for cutworm. Seed with both Poncho 250 and 1250 from the NE panhandle, through central NE, and into SE Nebr. have been rescued. Growers looking at seed treatments for next year need to determine the true value and protection they provide vs their advertised benefits.

Post Corn, Sorghum Herbicide Notes

Post corn herbicide applications are continuing in most locations. The recent stretch of cool, overcast, rain, and damp conditions in the eastern areas has slowed down a lot of planned applications. Aim in combination with most early-post products like Marksman, Steadfast, Steadfast ATZ, Clarity, Hornet, Spirit, Callisto is an excellent way to boost control of velvetleaf, waterhemp, morningglories, kochia, Russian thistle and others. Aim + Atrazine 0.5-1.0 lb is an effective, inexpensive treatment for control velvetleaf, lambsquarter, pigweeds, nightshade, waterhemp up to 4 inches tall. When weeds are taller than 4" or include sunflower, kochia, smartweed, ragweed, Russian thistle, the addition of 4 oz of dicamba will control these weeds also. This 3 mode-of-action combination is a safe, inexpensive post program that works!!



FMC Corporation

Dan Smydra

Retail Market Manager

1372 Hardy Road

St. Paul NE 68873

Phone: 308-754-7840

Mobile: 308-750-6340

Fax: 308-754-7844

daniel_smydra@fmc.com



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Post Corn, Sorghum Herbicide Notes - Continued

Aim is labeled up to the 8-collar stage in corn and can be used to help control weeds as corn gets above the 5-leaf stage. Beyond the 5-leaf stage, the growing point of corn moves above the soil surface and use of phenoxy type herbicides (dicamba, 2,4-D) during this rapid corn growth can cause lazy, leaning, or brittle stalks and result in corn snapping off in windy conditions. Use Aim to help control weeds with products like Hornet, Distinct, Roundup, Liberty, Permit, Equip, Option, Accent. Aim is safe to rapidly growing corn and helps control larger weeds with low rates of companion herbicides to protect the crop. FMC has a 2(ee) label for Aim 0.5 oz + Atrazine 0.5 lb + Callisto 1.5 oz for control of weeds through 5 inches. This is an FMC backed program that is effective alternative for those growers who do not want to add dicamba to the tankmix.

COC, MSO and NIS can be used with Aim on corn. Observe weather precautions when using 'hotter' adjuvants like COC and MSO under damp, cool conditions. Increased leaf speckling can occur under these conditions, but rapidly outgrown if it does occur. Use the recommended adjuvant for the tankmix partner. COC is being used in most western areas of the region currently due to the dry, stressed conditions.

Aim is recommended for sorghum from 2 through 6 collars on sorghum. Aim can be tankmixed with atrazine, 2,4-D, Peak, Starane, Permit, Marksman, Ally +2,4-D. A combination of Aim + Atrazine 0.5-1.0 + 2,4-D amine 8 oz is a very effective combination for most weeds in sorghum. Aim is also very effective to burn back field bindweed to reduce the competition with sorghum. NIS is the recommended adjuvant on sorghum.

Alfalfa - Insect Management after 1st Cutting.

Alfalfa is often neglected after the 1st cutting is harvested. Most growers assume that since alfalfa weevil is done, insects do little damage to alfalfa on later cuttings. Potato leafhopper, tarnished plant bug, grasshoppers, variegated cutworm, green cloverworm, alfalfa caterpillar, pea aphid, spotted alfalfa aphid have all been known to cause significant damage to 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cuttings. Potato leafhopper and tarnished plant bugs both remove nutrients and fluids from the plant and inject toxins that cause stunting, malformed leaves, yellowing of alfalfa. Research has shown that potato leafhopper can have a significant effect on protein quality and yield of alfalfa if left untreated. As a result, the threshold for leafhoppers is very low (2 leafhoppers / 10 sweeps) on alfalfa 3" tall. A threshold of 3 tarnished plant bugs / sweep is used for small alfalfa (<3"). There are no established thresholds for a multiple insect complex in a field. In 2002 and 2003, FMC conducted on-farm pilot program to research the effect of protecting alfalfa regrowth with Mustang Max. Results showed that when treating 2-6" tall alfalfa with low levels of several insect pests, there was consistently a significant increase in protein, RFV, and yield.



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Alfalfa - Insect Management after 1st Cutting - Continued

Scout alfalfa soon after regrowth begins following cutting and treat when insect feeding is observed. Thresholds are low for leafhopper and plant bugs, so it only takes a few to have a big economic return. Mustang Max at 2.5 - 3.0 oz when alfalfa is 2-6" tall is effective in controlling these insects with residual to protect the regrowth and give it a boost.

Alfalfa Weevil larvae can suppress regrowth following 1st cutting removal of alfalfa. Research from universities shows that as few as 5 days of feeding can significantly impact later alfalfa yield. Since there is little foliage present on stubble after cutting, Furadan at 0.5 pint has performed better than pyrethroids. The addition of a low rate of Mustang Max will help clean up any variegated cutworm feeding on regrowth as well.

Corn Rootworm

As we approach the end of May, it is nearing time for planned Furadan 4F applications for Corn Rootworm. Cottonwood cotton is starting to fly as well as fire flies which usually are a good indicator that rootworm hatch is near initiation or has started. Corn rootworm hatch begins when about 650-700 GDD have accumulated with the peak hatch occurring about 7-12 days later at about 750-800 GDD. Heat units have been tracking about 5-7 days ahead of normal this year. Furadan applications should be timed to coincide with peak hatch to get the best control. At least a 0.5" or rainfall or irrigation is needed to move Furadan into the soil for rootworm control, so it usually best to apply Furadan to dryland fields first to get the best chance for rain to move it into the soil. Dryland fields in Nebraska and Kansas can begin about the 30th of May with the recommendation that irrigated fields begin treatment around the 1st -10th of June in Kansas and S. NE. In northern NE, as well as western NE, and CO applications should be closer to the 10th-15th of June. Check fields for evidence of rootworm, feeding, damage before making the final decision when to treat. Check fields that may have at-plant seed treatments as those fields may need to be rescued.

Capture 2EC is also labeled for Chemigation applications for control of rootworm. Research has shown better results than chlorpyrifos in trials. Applications should be timed for peak hatch and earlier than a typical rescue treatment to limit the amount of rootworm feeding and take advantage of the residual control of Capture. A minimum of 0.75" of irrigation water is needed to move Capture into the root zone to protect roots.

Final Notes

Aim Soybeans - If soybeans are emerging, it is not recommended to apply Aim until after soybeans are beyond the unifoliate stage.

Corn Borer - Light Trap counts in NE are starting to pick up significant number of ECB. We will discuss more about ECB in the coming weeks.