

Hillsboro Scouting Report

Soybeans

- Iron Chlorosis is starting to show up. This year Halstad Elevator has an Iron Chlorosis Test Plot. The time for viewing will be this week through about the yield. It is a 24 variety plot set up with 2 rows per variety. Directions to the plot: 3 miles west of I-29 on Alternate 200 and 1/2mile south. The plot is located on the west side of the road. If you would like soil sample results for the plot area or a plot map, please stop by the Hillsboro office and pick up a copy. They are available for anyone who asks.
- Some of the soybeans in a minimum till situation are being sprayed for the first time. Some weeds that are easily missed when only vertical tillage is used are dandelions, wild buckwheat, and lambsquarter. There are other weeds that can be a challenge, but these are the most prominent weeds in the fields this year. At this point in the year, dandelions are almost impossible to kill. They are dormant at this time of the year, which means that chemical is not translocating through the plant, and glyphosate really isn't the most effective herbicide to kill dandelions anyway. Wild Buckwheat is a weed that has natural tolerance to glyphosate and therefore is not easily killed by glyphosate. Once wild buckwheat is vining, it is virtually impossible to kill with glyphosate alone. Many of the buckwheat plants that are not killed with tillage prior to planting probably won't be able to be killed with glyphosate alone at this point in the season. Lambsquarter will also escape the vertical tillage and has been becoming increasingly difficult to kill with glyphosate alone. From this point going forward, tankmixing Roundup may be the only way to slow down these weeds. Any tankmix partners that will have activity on this weed spectrum in soybeans will more than likely be contact herbicides, will likely burn the crop, and still may not result in a complete kill of the weed. The best recommendation is to control these either by tillage or herbicides prior to planting or in the fall of the year around the first frost time period. Talk with an HEC agronomist to determine the best control measure for these difficult to control weeds.

Winter Wheat

- Much of the winter wheat is headed and the flowering process is starting. That means it is time to make decisions about fungicides for fusarium head blight. So far, the disease models show low pressure for disease. However, we definitely have enough moisture for disease development and winter wheat is not disease tolerant at all. So it is advised, even with low disease pressure, to take some kind of precautions. Talk with your local HEC agronomist to find out which fungicide will work the best into your operation.

Corn

The yellowing we are seeing in the corn this spring could be a couple of things. Zinc deficiency will cause some yellow stripes up and down the corn leaf. Sulfur deficiency will also look very similar to this. There has been sulfur deficient corn on lighter ground this year, and the lighter ground is usually where it will show up. It can be difficult to decide whether or not to apply sulfur as part of the fertilizer plans because soil tests may show that there is sulfur in the soil, however, this sulfur may not be available to the corn plant. Typically the amount to apply for a corn crop in our area is about 15-20 pounds of actual sulfur.

Halstad Scouting Report

Wheat

The wheat crop is looking good in the Halstad area. With the weather pattern that we are in, disease is bound to be a factor this year. Check variety for FHB tolerance and anticipate spraying within two weeks to the end of the month on susceptible varieties at least. Some of the earlier planted fields have begun to head out. If you need help staging these fields call our agronomy team for assistance.

Soybeans

Spraying has begun on soybeans in the last week. Iron chlorosis is becoming evident in the weaker scoring varieties.

Corn

The corn that needed to be replanted is up and looking good. Farmers that did not put down a residual product should have sprayed the corn by now. Opportunity to get some residual control can be obtained by adding it to your glyphosate application.

Beets

Beets remain in above average condition in the region, stands being above average and disease pressure looks to be in check. It is shaping up to be an exceptional year.

Weeds

Chemical performance has been good this year with the exception of some rainfast issues.