

Sugarbeets

- We are getting to be very close to spraying fungicides for Rhizoctonia Crown Rot. We need to have 2 leaf beets and the soil temps must be between 65 and 70 degrees. According to the American Crystal website, we did reach these temperatures on 5/18 or 5/19. However, we must have 2 leaf beets before spraying. To check the soil temperatures, check out ACS website where they are monitoring the soil temp. The link is <http://www.crystalsugar.com/agronomy/agtools/pest/>. For further recommendations, contact your local HEC Agronomist.
- There are a few recommendations that went out this week for the 1st application of herbicide spraying. For the most part, the fields are staying fairly clean. However, watch out for wild buckwheat. Wild buckwheat is best controlled when it is in the 2 leaf stage with a full rate of Roundup.

Dandelion

- Dandelion is a weed that is seen a lot in no-till situations. While we may not want to be in a no-till situation, we have sort of been in a forced minimum tillage situation for the last couple of years. The last two falls have not allowed us to till the ground, and the spring of 2009 did not allow for much tillage either. Another major reason for the infestation in some areas is the way we spray our Roundup. Roundup kills grass quite easily and when spray booms go over into the ditch we kill the grass. That grass is extremely important for fighting weeds. When well established, it competes with weeds such as dandelion to keep them from taking over an entire area. When dandelions take over a ditch, they can easily spread into the field.
- What do we do about this weed? Dandelion is a perennial weed, and it is this life cycle that provides some of the issues with controlling it. In the fall of the year, it translocates nutrients down into its taproot for the winter months. In the early spring, usually before we are working in the field, it actively grows and eventually sends up its yellow flowers which eventually go to seed. Then it kind of lies dormant for the summer until fall. Because of this life cycle, it is extremely difficult to control during the growing season. The best time of the year to kill dandelions is in the fall of the year after a light frost. A combination of 2,4-D and Roundup will do an excellent job of reducing dandelion issues in a field. 2,4-D and Roundup have been used in the very early spring time to control dandelions, but the results have not been as consistent as a fall application. There are a few things that we can do during the growing season depending upon what crop. However, the most successful spring tactics for dandelions have been prior to planting. If you have a dandelion issue, call your HEC agronomist right away for ideas on how to kill dandelions.

Corn Stands

- Soil temperatures have been on the interesting side for corn emergence. We started with warm soils, then they dropped, and now they have come back up again. Thank goodness they are warming up, that is just what this corn needs. The next week or so will probably be about the right time to evaluate corn stands.

Taking corn stands is easy. Measure the distance designated below for your row spacing. Then take the number of plants counted in that distance and multiply by 1000. That is your stand count per acre.

- 30" rows – measure 17'5"
- 22" rows – measure 23'9"
- 20" rows – measure 26'2"

Spring Wheat

Most of the spring wheat is in the 3 leaf-stage. Within the next week or two would be the time to make a herbicide and early fungicide application. All labeled fungicides have good activity against leaf spot diseases in the 3-5 leaf stage.

Corn

The corn stand counts look good. Some fields are still emerging from the soil and should be easily rowed within the next 2-3 days. In the heavier soil there was some "corkscrewed" sprouts, but with the recent warm temps the sprouts have come around and should be fine.