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Early foliar fungicide application on corn

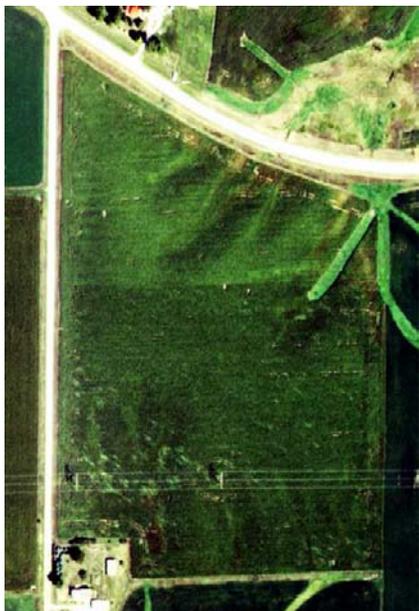
This last season's drought had many growers wondering whether fungicides were a good investment, reasoning that diseases tend to be less of a problem in dry years.

One of the trial subjects studied by On-Farm Network® participants in 2012 showed some interesting results, in part because of the strategy used. Bayer CropScience provided support to conduct 20 trials across Iowa, to test the idea of applying a reduced rate of their Stratego YLD fungicide at the V5 growth stage, so it could go on with a post-emergence herbicide application.

Bayer recommended the reduced rate of 2.5 oz/a simply because at V5 there's less leaf area to cover than there generally is at the normal application time VT to R3, when the recommended application rate is 4.5 ounce/a. With less product needed and no additional application costs, the breakeven yield increase needed to cover the costs was right at 1 bu/a.

Stratego YLD at V5 in Corn

Trial ID	County	Yield Difference
ST2012IA067A	Louisa	-12.6
ST2012IA204A	Howard	-2.7
ST2012IA064A	Henry	-0.2
ST2012IA060A	Henry	0.0
ST2012IA066A	Des Moines	0.0
ST2012IA065A	Des Moines	0.5
ST2012IA072B	Des Moines	1.2
ST2012IA071A	Des Moines	1.4
ST2012IA118A	Palo Alto	1.4
ST2012IA119A	Emmet	1.4
ST2012IA063A	Henry	1.9
ST2012IA030A	Black Hawk	2.3
ST2012IA221A	Scott	3.2
ST2012IA072A	Des Moines	5.4
ST2012IA203A	Howard	13.2



As of this morning, we had 15 successfully completed trials on this topic posted on the website. Despite it being a dry year, the average yield increase for these trials was 1.1 bu/a, with a median of 1.4 bu/a. This suggests the practice was profitable, on the average.

Given the very dry year, this is an interesting finding. In some of our other trials using more traditional rates and timings, we saw less of a yield increase than we have seen in wetter years. It will be interesting to see whether we'll see larger responses with a return to more normal (we hope) weather this year, since wetter weather that usually increases disease pressures.

This approach is different from more traditional fungicide applications in that it requires less product and can be combined with other planned applications. It also allows ground application of fungicide in fields where aerial application is not practical, such as where there are obstructions like windmills, power lines (as seen in the image of one of these trials on the left), or trees in fields or along the edges.

[See the individual trials for this and other 2012 On-Farm Network fungicide projects.](#)