

Burrus Buzz

Delivering more than just seed

10.10.17

Top 10 Questions of the 2017 Growing Season

by Stephanie Porter, Sales Agronomist

10. Does my corn have a nutrient deficiency?

Always check the pattern in the field and rule out root issues such as disease, insects, compaction, nematodes, or herbicide damage. Ultimately, potassium (K) deficiency symptoms can show in dry conditions, even if there is adequate soil fertility. Uptake of K requires an actively growing root system in the soil zone where K is present. Corn requires the greatest amount of K after V6. If you are not sure, always soil test, but beware soil test results of K also can be lower than normal in dry soil conditions.



Sulfur deficiency?



Potassium deficiency?



Does my corn have a nutrient deficiency?

Additional Information: [Think Burrus blog](#)



Silver-spotted skipper larvae



Thistle caterpillar becomes a Painted lady butterfly



What are these unusual soybean pests feeding in my soybeans?

9. What are these unusual soybean pests feeding in my soybeans?

One unusual pest found in soybeans this year was the thistle caterpillar. Later in the season, the thistle caterpillar transforms into the painted lady butterfly. In a few instances, defoliation from the thistle caterpillar was beyond threshold and required treatment. Overall, the accumulation of several pests caused severe defoliation of soybeans this year and consideration of foliar pesticides should have been considered to protect soybean reproductive growth stages.

Additional Information: [Think Burrus blog](#)

8. How much can waterhemp grow in a drought within 48 hours?

During one of our agronomic trainings, we found that not even dry weather can slow the fast growth of dreaded waterhemp. After flagging and measuring the same weed, we were able to document as much as 1 inch of growth within a 24-hour time period.

Additional Information: [Take Action: Waterhemp in Soybeans](#)



Answer: 1 Inch of growth in Arenzville, IL



How much can waterhemp grow in a drought in 24 hours?



Western corn rootworm beetle and root feeding



How should I plan to manage corn rootworms next season?

7. How should I plan to manage corn rootworms (CRW) next season?

Evaluate CRW on a field-by-field basis based on insect pressure during the previous season. Even though pressure has been low, there are some areas where CRW populations increased. In areas of heavier rootworm pressure, such as corn on corn, a pyramid Bt can provide convenient season-long control. CRW management decisions may become more difficult when planting corn after soybeans, but it comes down to the question, "Was there CRW pressure the previous year in your field or neighbor's?" If you answered yes, you may choose transgenics or insecticide. This higher risk of injury will not only increase the value, but also the return on investment from CRW protection.

6. Why are my soybeans stunted and yellow?

Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is the #1 yield robber of soybeans and injury can be more visible during dry conditions. SCN has also been deemed the "gateway for disease." Crop rotation to non-hosts such as corn decreases SCN populations. There are new seed treatments that offer early season SCN control, but this is not considered a "stand alone" treatment. We have come to rely mainly on PI 88788 source of SCN resistance in most varieties, but SCN have adapted. Some PeKing varieties could be available. Control winter annuals because they can harbor SCN and access your SCN egg counts via soil testing in the fall.

Additional Information: [ILSoy Advisor '16](#)
[ILSoy Advisor '17](#)



Soybean cyst nematode (SCN)



Why are my soybeans stunted and yellow?

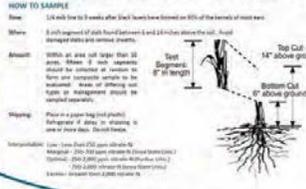
5. Did my corn have enough nitrogen?

After heavy rains earlier in the season, some growers chose to apply rescue nitrogen depending on time of N application, type of fertilizer, total N applied, use of N inhibitor, and field conditions. Ultimately, a soil test is the best way to determine how much N is residing in the root zone. At the end of the season, you can do a stalk nitrate test to determine if N residing in the lower corn stalk is low, marginal, optimal, or excess. The stalk nitrate test results can be impacted by weather and soil yield potential and should not be used.

Additional Information: [Burrus Buzz Michigan State University Extension](#)



CORNSTALK NITRATE TEST (CSNT)



Did my corn have enough nitrogen?



Corn earworm feeding

What is feeding on my corn ear?

4. What is feeding on my corn?

There have been many reports of corn earworm feeding, especially on late planted or replanted corn in southern Illinois. Insecticides are often not economical. Insect feeding not only damages kernels, but also can lead to ear rot pathogen infection. Some ear rot pathogens can produce mycotoxins, which can be toxic. Ultimately, the only trait technology that truly protects against ear feeding pests such as corn earworm, fall armyworm, and western bean cutworm is the [Agrisure Viptera®](#) trait.

3. Do I need a fall burndown to help with weed control?

Now is the time for growers to begin prepping for the next year by applying fall herbicide to their fields. Fall herbicide applications are often made on no-till fields targeting winter annual species such as marestail (horseweed), purple deadnettle, henbit, and chickweed. Applying a herbicide in the fall can help control these weeds prior to them reaching the reproductive stage and will allow for a cleaner field prior to planting next year's crop.

Additional Information: [Think Burrus blog](#)



Do I need a fall burndown to help with weed control?

2. How much yield did I lose to low moisture soybeans?

This year, farmers realized more than ever that timely soybean harvest or harvesting soybeans at higher moisture can lead to profit. Unfortunately, soybean moisture quickly dropped due to weather conditions at harvest. "What difference does harvesting and selling soybeans at 8% or 9% moisture mean to your bottom line? If you sell soybeans at 8% moisture, you're losing about 5.43% of your yield; at 9% moisture, it's 4.4%; at 10% moisture, 3.3%; at 11% moisture, 2.25%; and at 12% moisture, it's 1.14% yield."

Additional Information: [University of Nebraska - Lincoln](#)



How much yield did I lose to low moisture soybeans?



How much yield will be lost if my soybeans were dinged due to off-target movement of dicamba?

1. How much yield will be lost if my soybeans were dinged due to off-target movement of dicamba?

I have heard of yield losses of 0, 5, 10, 15, 20...40 bu./a due to off-target movement of dicamba. The reason for such a range of yield loss is due to several factors such as time of exposure and concentration. Higher yield losses can occur if dicamba exposure occurs at bloom or podfill and at higher concentrations or repeated exposure. The other key is the weather conditions after the time of exposure or until the end of the growing season.

Additional Information: [Prairie Farmer](#)
[Progressive Farmer](#)

These are the top 10 questions encountered during the 2017 growing season. If you would like to see the rest of the top 20 list, visit the Think Burrus blog.

Questions or comments for our Agronomic Team?
Submit to us at burrus.seed@burrusseed.com.