

Danville Co-op Agronomy Newsletter, March 2010

As of this writing, we are still top-dressing wheat. The weather has been fairly challenging, where the ground has been wet but frozen. Our residual herbicides such as Finesse can be ran with fertilizer however, DuPont's mandate that we also apply 2,4-D along with Finesse has slowed the process down, because 2,4-D needs to have warmer weather to be effective. The addition of 2,4-D does however increase the control of many problem weeds such as marestalk and cutleaf evening primrose. These two weeds can be a big problem in row crop as well. The producers that intend to plant corn or soybeans next month, should be aware that you need to control these species well ahead of your planting date. The reason is, that you should use a growth regulator (2,4-D or Dicamba) to be effective. If you use a growth regulator, the soil activity in those products will not allow for immediate planting. Be sure you plan ahead!

Back to the wheat, downy brome is going to be very hard to control this year. The downy brome came up with the wheat last fall and has had a chance to tiller very strongly. The downy brome at this point in time, has more than 7 tillers and a spring application of Olympus or Power Flex will not be as effective as some of you may require. There is a chance that we can stop the plant from putting a seed head on or reduce the effect of some tillers, but complete control will be reduced significantly. Keep this fact in mind when you make the decision to spray or not.

Most of the seed that producers will need for spring planting has already been booked. For those producers that haven't spoke for their seed, we still have some available. Soybean seed is still in good supply, however corn seed is becoming a little short. Please speak for your seed as soon as possible as we may or may not have any for you. The seed companies will not let us return but a small portion of what we order, so we need to know what your needs are. Keep in mind that we will be equipped to offer soybean inoculation and delivery this year. We want to earn your seed business!

Your Danville Co-op has invested in supplying your precision needs. We have the capability to grid-sample and analyze your fields to determine the limiting factors in order to make your production more efficient and possibly reducing production cost. You will hear more of this to come in following newsletters, however as technology changes, and equipment improvement becomes more easily affordable, we will be on the cutting edge of supplying your needs in regard to precision agriculture. Please invite your local co-op agronomist into a discussion of our program.

We feel we need to put in a plug for pre-emerge chemicals at this time. Row crop planting is almost upon us and the best results in weed control is where we applied pre-emerge products on our corn and soybeans. We will be carrying the Syngenta branded products such as Prefix for soybeans and Bicep 11 Lite Magnum for Sorghum and Corn. If you have any questions about these products and more; call your co-op agronomist. Thanks!

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