

TH AGRI-CHEMICALS, Inc.

"Good People to Grow With"

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

MAY 1, 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

TH Agri-Chemicals, Inc.

Since 1982!

What started as a small Ag chemical business serving the growers in central Wisconsin, has grown into a business that now services customers in Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and all of Wisconsin. This growth couldn't have occurred without the support of loyal customers like you. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support these past years. It is appreciated! I also want to thank our employees. Without their dedication we would not be able to give you the service and expertise you have come to expect over the years. We look forward to working together in 2012 and in future years.

Bob Zimpel &
Steve Rosenthal

&

TH Staff

"Good people to grow with!"

What a roller coaster ride with the weather again this year. We would have been in great shape if we could have put April where March is and brought March up to April. The warm temperatures in March brought many crops on early. Apples, strawberries and cherries started blooming a month early. Now with several frosts and freezing temperatures, a lot of the crops have suffered significant damage. Damage not only occurred in Wisconsin but Michigan, Pennsylvania and other areas back east. We should have a good idea in the next week or two on the extent of the damage in apples. Cranberry growers have had a lot of sleepless nights with all of the frost protection that has gone on.

Potato planting has been completed in the Central Sands and some of the potatoes have emerged and herbicides are being applied. Sweet corn and peas are being planted and snap bean planting will start in another few days. Field corn planting is progressing nicely with some early planted fields emerging. Soybeans have also been going in the ground. The excessive rain we have had will definitely slow field work and planting for the next few days—especially on the eastern side of the state. Once again Mother Nature is the one calling the shots. Even with all of the challenges that we have had, it is great to be involved in agriculture—the number one industry in the U.S.A.



Sincerely,

Robert L. Zimpel
President

INSECTS

The easy winter and early spring is allowing for earlier than normal insect pressure. The mild winter has allowed for increased survival so populations will be higher early on. Alfalfa weevils are being found in large numbers, so you will need to carefully monitor fields—especially after 1st cutting to see if an insecticide application is needed. Aster leaf hopper are numerous and those infested with Aster Yellow virus is quite high. Susceptible crops such as celery, carrots and newly emerged onions should be monitored closely. You will need to monitor all crops closely. I anticipate a significant increase in insect pressure this year.

Bob Zimpel

IMPORTANT BULK INFORMATION

Last August the EPA established new guide lines for bulk containers. They must be equipped with one-way valves and all openings must be sealed. If, for any reason, the seals are broken when the tank is returned, it must be triple rinsed and we must keep a record of the dates that this was done. For this reason we are going to charge a \$50.00 per tank fee for any tanks that are returned with the seals broken. It is unfortunate that these additional regulations have been imposed on us, but we must abide by them. If you have any questions please give myself or your sales person a call.

Bob Zimpel



TH has seen great things out of the sabrEx,(Trichoderma microbials) it helps promote larger root systems and plant growth increasing the plants ability to take up water and nutrients and help with alleviating plant stress and increasing its drought tolerance, all leading up to YIELD. SabrEx for corn comes as a planter box treatment which has talc/graphite and is very easy to work with. One 12 oz pail treats 24 bags of corn. The Graph-Ex SA has the sabrex technology plus it has a inoculant included so it is the only thing you need to add to your beans, it comes as a dry planter box which treats 50 bags. If you want to increase yields without spending a fortune call TH today.

Jeff Luttrupp, CCA

SabrEx/Graph-ex SA are trademarks of Advanced Biological Marketing

STRAWBERRIES

We definitely suffered some early damage from frost and lost a large percentage of King Berries. This week, however, we have a lot of blossoms and some berries have formed. It appears that we are going to have a good crop of strawberries, if we don't have any more frost/freeze problems. The picture below that I have attached is of a blossom cluster that shows both frozen and unfrozen flowers. The ones with the black centers are, of course, the frozen ones. We should be harvesting berries several weeks early this year and it appears that we are going to have an abundance of berries ready at one time.

With all of the rain we have been having, you need to keep up a good fungicide program. I am also adding two ounces of Messenger Gold and 3 pounds of 20-20-20 with the fungicide sprays and spraying on a weekly basis.

Let's try and keep the prices up this year.

Good luck with harvest!

Bob Zimpel

****Messenger Gold is a registered trademark of Plant Health Care.**

WEATHER & WEED CONTROL

HOT, DRY AND WINDY----COLD, WET AND ???

Growers have been faced with a variety of conditions this year. The planting season is underway and glyphosate (Credit Extra, Roundup, etc.) spraying has begun. Conditions that are less than favorable can cause herbicide failures and often require another application.

Growers have tools to assure effective results. Growers should use AMS in all applications of Glyphosate. 17 lbs/per 100 gallons of dry AMS or 1 quart/per 100 gallons of Transport LPH should always be added. The addition Of Hook at the rate of 1 quart/per 100 is the best insurance for effective weed control. Hook has multiple products in it to help you. (All-In-One). Hook has a spreader, sticker, deposition agent, penetrator, activator and a drift control agent in it. We add Hook to all our Glyphosate spraying and have never had a weed control complaint. Hook can also be used with fungicides to enhance disease control.

REMEMBER: ALWAYS ADD HOOK LAST!

Steve Rosenthal, CCA

**Hook is a registrerd trademark of Atlantic Pacific; Credit Extra is a registered trademark of Nufarm; Roundup is a registered trademark of Monsanto; AMS or Ammonium Sulfate (Sprayable) is a registered trademark of American Plant Food;Transport LPH is a registered trademark of Precision Ag.*



Strawberry picture provided by Hillcrest Orchards.

NATURALL

ABM has received a label for Naturall for use on vegetables. Naturall has the same active ingredient as SabrEx that we have used on corn and soybeans with great results.

Naturall is labeled on many vegetables as a planter box treatment. Crops include Cucumbers, Peppers, Onions, Ginseng, Green Beans, Carrots, Sweet Corn and many others.

Rates vary from 2.0 – 8.0 ounces per cwt/seed.

Growers will see enhanced root development, which allows for greater nutrient uptake. We have seen 7 bushel yield increase on Soybeans and up to 20 bushel increases in Corn. Split some fields and give it a try and let us know your results.

Steve Rosenthal, CCA

***Naturall is a registered trademark of Advanced Bio-Marketing.**

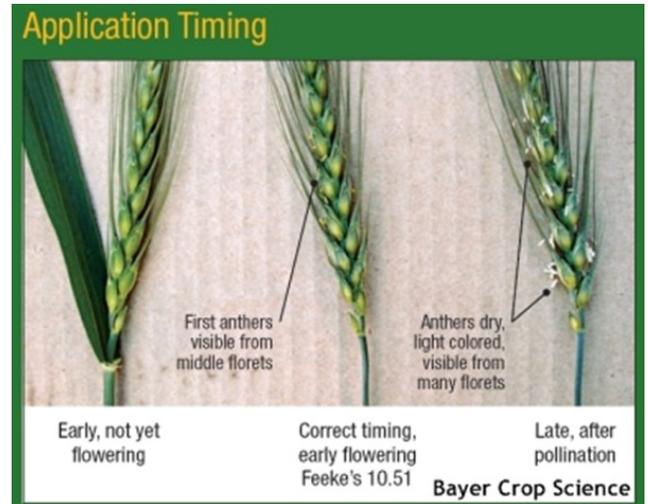
TIME TO SPRAY YOUR WHEAT?

Time to spray your wheat for yield robbing leaf diseases. There are two different products we sell for wheat depending on the time you spray. Stratego / Stratego YLD can be sprayed any time up to head-emergence, it controls powdery mildew, septoria leaf spot, and rusts. It has both preventive and curative action.

Prosaro can be sprayed after heads have emerged at feekes 10.5 (see photo) and is effective against Fusarium head blight (scab) if applied at the right time. It also has curative and residual control of leaf diseases. Please check your wheat before you spray to make sure you have the right material. Call TH with questions you may have.

Jeff Luttrupp, CCA

****Stratego, Stratego YLD and Prosaro are registered trademarks of Bayer CropScience.**



FOR THE BIRDS!

TH will again be offering the Avipel seed treatment for corn. It is effective against Sand Hill cranes. It is a bio-pesticide and is non-lethal, that works as a taste deterrent, or a gut irritant. The cranes will still need to sample several plants, then move to other food items such as worms, insects and volunteer grains. Cranes will remain in the field as long as they find food. Remember, only the mating pairs cause most of the damage. Cranes do not always return to the same field every year, but do return to the same area every year.

There are two forms of Avipel available. The dry hopper box treatment treats 200# of seed and contains graphite and talc so no additional material is recommended. The liquid comes in a 2.5 gallon jug and treats 2300# of seed. Avipel liquid needs to be applied ahead of planting, to allow time for drying. Call TH today to ensure you are not feeding the birds.

Jeff Luttrupp, CCA

****Avipel is a trademark of Arkon Life Sciences.**



APPLES

It appears that we had a significant amount of damage to the apple crop in the state. While it varies with grower and area, I don't believe anyone got by without damage. At Hillcrest we will have to do some thinning on the upper part of the orchard. On the lower part of the orchard we only have apples on the upper part of the trees. We have a very small Honey crisp crop this year. In talking to various growers around the state, this seems to be a fairly common problem.

On a national level, the apple crop in Michigan and east has been severely damaged. They have had several frost and freeze periods with each taking out a percentage of the crop but this last one about 10 days ago appeared to do the most damage. I talked to an associate in Wenatchee, Washington on May 4th and he said they have a huge bloom and after hearing how light the crop is from Michigan east, they are trying to figure out how hard they want to thin. It has been extremely wet out there so they have been spraying much more than normal. Suppliers have run out of a number of fungicides.

I will continue to update you on what I hear as our crop progresses. If it appears you are going to have a decent crop you may want to look at applying Retain to slow down the maturity of the crop. I am not sure we will be able to find pickers in August – let alone find a market for apples at that time of year.

The opportunity to make some money on this crop is certainly there, so let's do our best to keep the prices up this fall.

Bob Zimpel

**** Retain is a registered trademark of Valent;**

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T H CELL PHONE NUMBERS

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|--------------------|----------------|
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TH SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

7:00 A.M.— 5:30 P.M.

AND

SATURDAYS 7:00 A.M.—NOON

2 TRUCKS FOR SALE — CALL T H (only 1 truck shown)



2005 Ford F250 4X4 Super Cab Lariat Edition, 6.5' Box
Engine: 5.4L-FI
Current Mileage: 222,000
Transmission: 5 Speed Automatic
Color: Dark Green
Interior: Tan leather interior
Price: \$8,000

Christmas Trees



2012 – A NORMAL YEAR????

The spring of 2012 has brought us unusually warm temperatures early and now very cold (freezing) temperatures. Damage has been done on many fruit trees as well as some damage on Balsam Fir trees that had sensitive new growth.

Growers need to be aware that we are still way ahead in degree days which determine insect growth and disease development. Last year at this time we had 38 growing degree days, and this year we are well over 300 growing degree days.

Please monitor fields for rapid insect development, especially if we get some warm weather. We have already sprayed for Gypsy Moth in some parts of the state, which is well ahead of last year.

WEED CONTROL ISSUES????

Growers have had to change weed spraying plans because of buds opening early and weeds growing so rapidly that we are past using pre-emergent herbicides. Growers still have the option of using Clethodim (Arrow, Select) for grasses and Stinger for broadleaf weeds. Growers can mix the two products together if both are a problem. Give us a call for rates and timing.

Steve Rosenthal, CCA

****Products mentioned are registered trademarks of the following; Arrow 2EC (Makhteshim Agan); Select 2EC (Valent), Stinger (Dow AgroSciences).**