



CROP ALERT

March 23, 2016

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Early Wheat Management Tips

It is time to take care of your wheat! It looks like it will be an early spring if this mild weather continues. As I write this, I am staring out my window on March 9 and it is 70 degrees! There was a short window for frost seeding. If it didn't get done by March 4th it probably didn't. Many of the earlier planted fields will be greened up nicely as you read this. See the reminders below on tiller counting, fertility, herbicides, and fungicides.

Nitrogen. In past articles I have discussed counting the number of tillers to determine if you should put all of your nitrogen up front, split it into two applications, or put it all on at a second application at Stage 6 (jointing). With the lack of snow this March I'm sure many of you have already assessed how many plants and tillers you have per square yard. If you haven't and need a refresher course, see my short video on how to do so, <https://vimeo.com/124455368>.



See chart as example of tiller number and N timing and amounts. If your plant/tiller counts are low, be prepared to get more N

Tiller Numbers (per sq. yard)	Nitrogen Recommendation
< 300	up to 60 units of N at green up, rest applied at GS 5-6
450-600	Up to 45 units of N at green up, rest applied at GS 5-6
>700	No N at green up, all N applied at GS 5-6

on early as wheat plants green up fast and need to be fed. This N is utilized to increase vegetative production and promote additional tillers. If tiller counts are in the middle, then get some N on early and the remainder on at jointing. If tiller counts are high, hold off on applying N at green-up and apply it all at jointing. This later N application timing should coincide with stem elongation which means nitrogen

is going towards increasing the number of seeds per head and seed size, not additional tillers. However, I will throw in a word of caution here. Last year was a wet year and those who held off for just one later application of N could not get in the field when they needed to and the wheat turned off-color. This is definitely not what we want at this crucial growth stage and yield potential was lost. I now have some growers who are going to apply 20 pounds of N early even if their tiller count is high, to protect against the potential for a delayed second application.

Weeds. We continue to encourage the earliest planted fields to be sprayed for winter annual weeds (purple deadnettle, chickweed, chamomile) in late fall. Some of the later planted fields may have had a burndown sprayed prior to planting. You never know what the weather will be like in the spring and timely weed control can be tricky. Most fields are sprayed in the spring. We are still encouraging that you do not mix your herbicide and nitrogen applications and spray separately. The leaf burning can cost us up to 10 bushels and could get worse as temperatures increase.

If grasses such as roughstalk bluegrass and cheat are a problem, Osprey does a good job of cleaning them up. It has no activity on broadleaves. Research by Russ Hahn has found that it has been very effective on bluegrass with better control achieved in the spring versus the fall. It can be applied up the jointing stage in winter wheat.

Fungicides. We have seen that fungicide applications in wheat can really pay off. Powdery mildew and leaf rust can move in during the early vegetative stages and result in yield losses. These leaf diseases can be more prevalent with thicker wheat stands. Weather conditions also can play a role. Wet, cool conditions are more conducive to disease development. In last month's AgFocus, I wrote about powdery mildew affecting wheat fields in NWNy last December. This means that early scouting of all your wheat fields is crucial to stay on top of this disease this spring! Look for large areas where the leaves are turning yellow. Lower leaves will gradually turn light brown. If you applied higher N rates (90-120 pounds), fungicides are even more important to keep the wheat healthy to prevent lodging.

First Annual Precision Agriculture Day

@ Genesee Community College

Monday, April 4th, 2016

8:30 am – 2:30 pm



Featuring
Keynote Session:

“After 20 Years, is Precision Agriculture
Finally Coming Together?”

– Marc Vanacht, Principal,
AG Business Consultants, St. Louis, MO

Special Session:
“Using Aerial Drones
To Enhance Field Production”

– Brian Pitre, CEO, SkyOp, LLC

- Have you mastered Precision Agriculture technology and want to take it to the next level?
- Are you mystified by this advanced technology, but are ready to start learning?
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- Join an international consultant and local experts as we discuss Precision Agriculture technology and how it impacts you!

COST: \$65/Participant, includes lunch

(Actual cost is \$170. A \$105 Scholarship will be applied to your registration fee through the generosity of supporters of this new initiative.)

For more information:

Contact Reid Smalley in GCC's BEST Center.
rjsmalley@genesee.edu
585-343-0055, ext. 6527



Seminars:

- **Keynote Session:** "After 20 Years, Is Precision Agriculture Finally Coming Together?" (Everyone)
– Marc Vanacht, Principal, AG Business Consultants
 - **Special Session:** "Using Aerial Drones to Enhance Field Production" (Everyone) – Brian Pitre, CEO, SkyOp, LLC
 - **How to Make Precision Agriculture Data Work for You** (for Experienced Producers)
– Daniel Ochs, CCA, Precision Agriculture Specialist, Ochs Consulting, LLC
 - **Efficiency & Profitability – What Precision Agriculture Can Do For You – Experiences From The Field** (for New PA Practitioners) – Panelists: David Russell, CCA, Field and Crop Manager, Noblehurst Farms/Linwood Agriculture; Jay Swede, Managing Partner, Gary Swede Farms, Inc.; Christian Yunker, Managing Partner, CY Farms, LLC
 - **Careers and Opportunities in Precision Agriculture** (for Students) – Emmaline Long, CCA, Crop Production Manager, CY Farms, LLC
 - **Optional Afternoon Session – Advanced Q&A with an International Expert** (for Experienced Producers, but open to everyone) – Marc Vanacht, Principal, AG Business Consultants
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To Register: You may register online with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover).

Go to: www.bestcenter.org, click "Precision Agriculture Day" in BEST Center News for detailed information and registration. Or complete this form and mail, fax or deliver to The BEST Center by Monday, March 28th.

The BEST Center, Genesee Community College, One College Road, Batavia, NY 14020; Fax: 585-345-6890

<h2>Precision Agriculture Day Registration Form</h2>				<h3>Spring 2016</h3>													
<u>Please Print</u>																	
Have you taken a GCC course before? Yes No			Food Restrictions? _____ OR NOTIFY US AT 585-345-6868 WHEN YOU REGISTER														
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Home Address # _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Day Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____ E-mail _____ County of Residence _____			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><thead><tr><th>Course #</th><th>Fee</th><th>Room</th><th>Begin Date</th><th>Start Time</th><th>Day</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>BSPD506 01 PA Day</td><td>\$65</td><td>GCC T-102</td><td>4/4/16</td><td>8:30am</td><td>Mon</td></tr></tbody></table>			Course #	Fee	Room	Begin Date	Start Time	Day	BSPD506 01 PA Day	\$65	GCC T-102	4/4/16	8:30am	Mon
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